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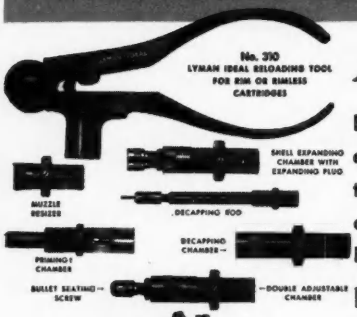

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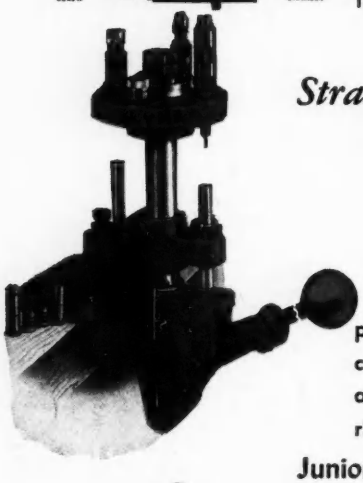

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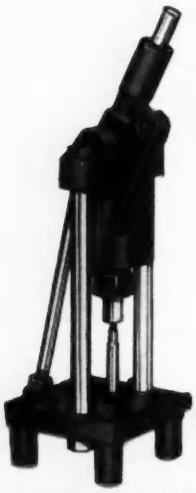

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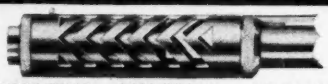

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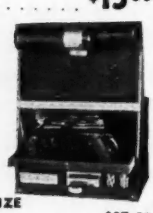

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Shooting and Fishing 1888-1906
Arms and the Man 1906-1923

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COVER

The rare bongo, largest of the West African bushbucks and a prized trophy in any game bag, is distinguished by its unique crescent-marked chest. These two are in the American Museum of Natural History's fine habitat group. For more on African game, turn to page 18.

Published monthly by the NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1600 RHODE ISLA AVENUE, WASHINGTON 6, D. C. Domestic Rates (North, South, and Central America) $4 a year, $7.00 for two years, $10 for three years; elsewhere add $.60 per year for for postage. Entered as second-class matter, April 1, 1908, at the post office at Washington, D. under act of March 3, 1879. Copyright, 1950, National Rifle Association of America. All ri reserved. For change of address, give both new and old address as the latter appears address label. Not responsible for loss or damage to unsolicited manuscripts or pho

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Dave Bushnell

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InCidenTa/Ly

As you'll realize if you read the letters on page 8, R. A. Bennett's article, "Single-Action Craze," (July, page 11) caused a more-than-normal amount of fuss. Apparently the single-action Colt revolver has more friends around this country of ours than Uncle Sam on payday. Credit what you will—the influence of television and Hopalong Cassidy, the tradition with which the single-action fairly drips, or the generally man-sized proportions and solid heft of the old cannon in comparison with today's streamlined handguns—the Colt Frontier may have been dropped from production by its manufacturer, but it hasn't been forgotten by American shooters. The flood of letters-to-the-editor (most of them from west of the Mississippi) was about ninety-five percent against brother Bennett's diatribe—which was just as we expected when the article was selected for publication. There were a couple of readers who agreed heartily with everything Bennett said, and one or two others who were sort of lukewarm in their approval of his article. But that ninety-five percent were solidly against. No sale for them.

There was one letter that started out this way: "It appears that the RIFLEMAN is resorting to a hammy journalistic stunt to test reader response. Such stuff (is) apparently by non-shooting men. One expects something better from the RIFLEMAN." The 'hammy stunt' referred to is the practice of publishing an article which will have the majority of readers up in arms because of the obvious absurdity or the deliberate untruthfulness of its statements. You couldn't find a better example of the technique, said Mr. X, than "Single-Action Craze."

What Mr. X ignored (or forgot) in his criticism is the fact that the RIFLEMAN has been publishing articles favorable to the single-action Colt revolver at the rate of at least one a year for the past five or six decades. A single action even appeared on the cover, in full color, a couple of months ago—to the obvious delight of single-action fans. Since we're running an open forum in the pages of the magazine, however, we decided that there would be no harm in a word from the folks of opposite persuasion.

In the same vein we've published, year after year, the arguments of the heavy-bullets-for-big-game proponents (notably, those of staffwriter Elmer Keith) right along with those of the opposite camp, who want a bullet of quarter-inch diameter that will rip through the air at close to 3,000 miles an hour. We don't look on that series of articles as a 'hammy journalistic stunt,' either.

We caught hell for another article . . . "Common Sense and Case Shape" . . . a few months ago—although Mr. Average Reader was happily in agreement with every heretical word of it. It advanced some beautifully logical reasons (in the author's opinion) why wildcat cartridges aren't half as good as they're claimed to be. That one brought down the house, too . . . but again the argument is the same. We've been publishing pro-wildcat articles, hot and heavy, ever since they started making the things. As a matter of fact, Langhorne (Pa.) gunsmith Bob Wallack dropped into the office a few days after that article appeared, and wanted to know how come we published an article that would sell people on standard cartridges instead of wildcats! Protested good-natured Bob (whose chief interest in life is the production of superaccurate wildcat rifles): "People are going out and buy standard .220's after reading that article." Bob agreed quickly enough, though, that the RIFLEMAN has published a steady stream of articles calling attention to the fine qualities of this or that wildcat cartridge . . . and that it was only fair to hear from the other side of the fence once!

So . . . until the RIFLEMAN changes its policy of serving as an open, impartial forum on shooting matters, we'll still print an occasional article that will take the props out from under this or that old favorite . . . not as a 'hammy journalistic stunt' (though we do look on the inevitable deluge of letters as a valuable aid in editing the magazine) but as a valid part of a publication which purports to reflect the feelings of all American shooters.

JS

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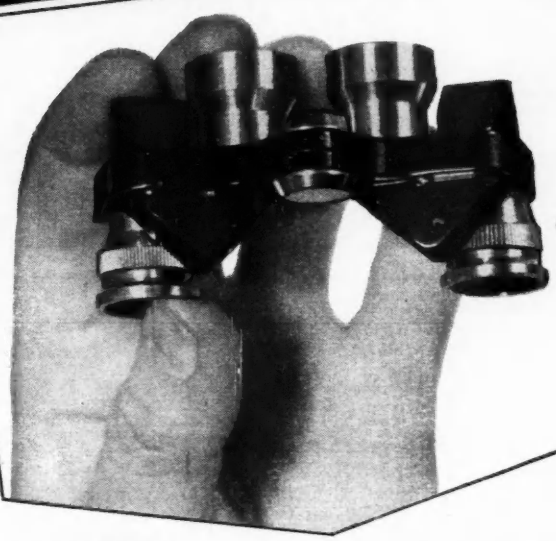

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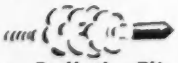

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SINGLE-ACTION CRAZE

Salmon, Idaho

Editor:

"Single Action Craze" (July, page 11) entitles you and Mr. Bennett to a copious bouquet of skunk cabbage.

DON MARTIN

Bakersfield, Calif.

Editor:

The only thing I have against the single action is the narrow rear-sight groove. Some time is required to widen this so the front sight can be clearly seen. Mr. Bennett sure overlooked one there!

C. W. KIRKPATRICK

Chicago, Ill.

Editor:

During my quarter century membership I have never seen so sour and venomous an article. Certainly hope we do not have to read any more stuff by Bennett, but if we do, please condense it and run it in the back.

R. CURTIS COLE

Norfolk, Virginia

Editor:

When Mr. Bennett knocks the grips and accuracy of the old weapons I would like to remind him that he is speaking for himself. I (and I think you will find many more) prefer the shape and angle of the old Colt grip. Notice the similarity between it and the new Tomkins pistol.

HORACE B. WEAVER

Petersburg, Virginia

Editor:

I would like to shake the hand of the chap who has the audacity to put the single action in its place.

JAMES R. BOLDRIDGE

Los Angeles, Calif.

Editor:

Like a wild man swinging on everyone in sight, your contributor makes the absurd statement that the Webley is the only modern revolver with a grip as poor as the Frontier Army model. Your own Julian S. Hatcher once wrote: "It is interesting to note that the modern British revolvers, such as the Webley & Scott, have a much more comfortable grip than any modern American revolver." Any person who has ever had a Webley & Scott Mark VI or an Enfield revolver in his hand can do no less than confirm Hatcher's judgement. No adaptors are required, as they are cut low enough to rest on the middle finger, without any additions.

Criticize its faults, if you will, but don't criticize the SA's grips, sights, cylinder walls, or accuracy, if you want experienced shooters to believe you.

D. H. FERRIS

Fort Worth, Texas

Editor:

When the undersigned damnyankee came to Texas, he wanted a big bore handgun, just to shoot for fun, not for serious target work. A late model .44-40 Frontier seemed to fill the bill.

Now I know it isn't super accurate, the balance is poor, and the grip is awful, but it has a sort of beauty and character, deserved or not, that no other gun has.

Mine now reposes in a hand-tooled, low-slung holster and cartridge belt.

Bennett can scream all he wants to about how horrible the weapon is, but I wouldn't part with mine for any double action of comparable quality.

LESTER KRISTFEN

Chicago, Illinois

Editor:

Mr. Bennett states that the grip of the S[A] is not a good one. I would like to know what gun Mr. Bennett thinks has a better one?

R. B. GODFREY

Los Angeles, Calif.

Editor:

Please accept my congratulations on the article "Single Action Craze." It is about time someone came out with the true facts.

PETER SARANTOS

Seattle, Washington

Editor:

Mr. Bennett's article on single-action Colts is a long-overdue debunking of an arm which normally should arouse only an interest comparable to that in a four-barrel Remington Elliot derringer or a tip-up Smith and Wesson. His observations elicit hearty agreement. But when Mr. Bennett compares the design of the British Webley revolver grip to that of the Frontier Colt, he simply doesn't know what he's talking about. Our latest models of Colts and Smith & Wessons to this day continue to inherit their most unscientifically designed grip with the notorious discomfort of the void space behind the trigger guard because the manufacturers have chosen not to improve upon the shape of their frame in over half a century. A huge testimonial to this bad design is the flourishing industry in "grip adapters" and "complete grips" which provide fill-ins for proper support by the third finger.

The British Webley guns have their frame and grip so shaped that with a very light hold, or in fact no contact hold, the arm balances perfectly on the third finger along in a natural aiming position, with the index finger resting on the trigger. Furthermore there is ample room for the little finger on the butt, which protrudes well below it.

A. A. DE CARRIERI

Vallejo, Calif.

Editor:

Of all the screwball articles ever written the one by Bennett about SA Colt revolvers takes the cake. In addition to the faults he lists I might add the following:

1) Blue will wear off
2) Gets cold in winter
3) Gets hot in summer
4) Will rust (if left damp)
5) Is too heavy
6) Grips are brittle (will break if hit with a hammer)
7) Cylinder gets sprung (if dropped on concrete floor)
8) Sight (any type) catches on clothing
9) Cylinder turns the wrong way
10) Hammer catches on tent flap or coffee pot handle

STEADY NOW... you've got him

Your own quick breathing . . . the rustling of the winter brook . . . these are the only sounds you hear. A few more seconds and you've got him!

This year, more sportsmen will experience this peak of hunting excitement. Yes, in many areas of the country, game stocks are showing an increase . . . both in numbers and in variety. Conservation is the reason why. And conservation will help insure even better hunting in the years to come. So, join and support your local and national organizations for game preservation and restoration. E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. (Inc.), Explosives Department, Wilmington 98, Delaware.

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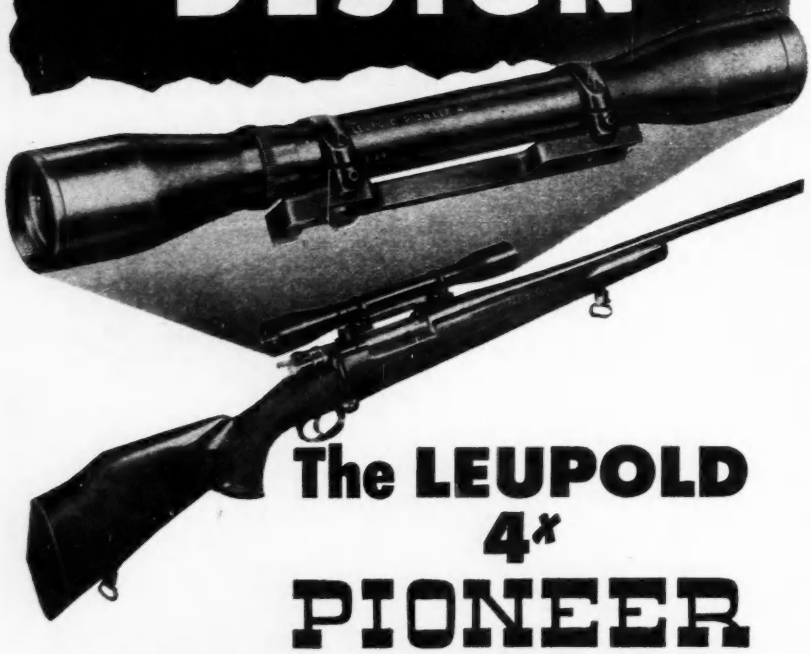

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HERE is a New Development in sighting . . . sleek design . . . 4 X, wide field

The Leupold 4 X Pioneer gives you lighter weight . . . wider field of view (35 ft. at 100 yds). AND full 4 X magnification. It's fast, accurate, rugged. The Leupold 4 X Pioneer (5 years in development) is truly the finest scope made today.

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- **Streamlined . . . 7/8" tube for lower mounting.**
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- **Fixed reticle — always centered — choice of 5 reticles: post and lateral hair, tapered post, cross hairs, dot and beaded post.**
- **Light — scope weighs only 8 ounces.**
- **No condensation — nitrogen processed.**
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Price—	
Scope and mount	$77.50
Scope alone	57.50
With mount rings	62.50
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Leupold & Stevens Instruments, Inc.
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11) Made in wrong calibers (no .220 Swift)
12) Not accurate (Wyatt Earp and Ben Thompson couldn't shoot with it at all)

There is something screwy about the whole set-up of discontinuing the single-action Colt while continuing the making of plastic junk, switchboxes and dishwashing machines.

JOHN R. ANTHONY

Greenfield, Mass.

Editor:

Mr. Bennett would have us believe that these worthless old products of Sam Colt's genius are dangerous to shoot. Yet, turning to page 47 of the same issue, we see there is some divergence of opinion between Mr. Bennett and Elmer Keith. Me, I'm for Keith.

I have about two-dozen single actions now, and I want Mr. Bennett to tell all those "hundreds" of "old rangers, ranchers, cowboys and lumbermen" that while they are giving away those useless old single-actions, to shoot some my way. I'll give them a good home!

JOHN S. DU MONT

POINTS OF VIEW

Ogden, Utah

Editor:

Just received my August RIFLEMAN, and am wondering what there is in it for the average reader. Personally I think it stinks.

The first article, I find, is "How to Shoot the M1." Now just tell me what sportsman goes hunting with an M1? Who cares how to shoot . . . the thing? It seems to me that you'd publish a special bulletin and send it to the Army so they would know how, and quit trying to stuff that kind of boring wind down our throats.

For the price, I think this AMERICAN RIFLEMAN is the most overrated magazine I have ever seen. My subscription is up in September, and thank the good Lord for that I'll never subscribe to it again.

AN ANONYMOUS READER

Fullerton, Calif.

Editor:

I have for some time been trying to learn the operation, proper care and shooting of the M1 service rifle. I was not making much progress, and was just on the point of asking where a set of instructions could be obtained. Oh, boy! Right then the postman brought my RIFLEMAN and therein was the exact information I was looking for!

T. B. WATTERS

CROSSBOWS ARE DANGEROUS

Madison, Wis.

Editor:

Readers of "Let's Build a Crossbow" (August-September) may find some long prejudices against its use. Pope Innocent started this in 1139 when he forbade the use of the crossbow against Christians. The Wisconsin Conservation Department is presently even more thorough and bans it for hunting. Possession of a crossbow in Wisconsin is legal provided "it is not taken in the woods." No one in the Conservation Department could assign a reason for the law beyond the opinion that crossbows are dangerous. No comment, however, as to whether the crossbow is more or less dangerous than the .22 rifle.

C. L. SHUMAKER

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Tool as Shown
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Complete for One
Caliber
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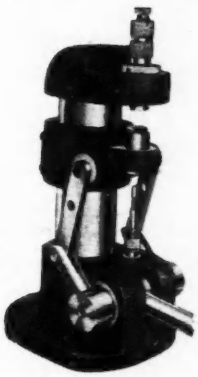

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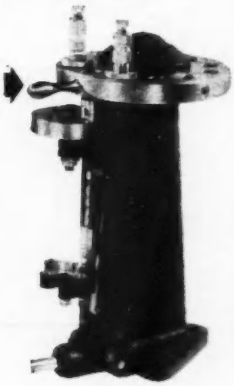
Strongest Tool Made for "Swaging" Bullets

Free Literature on Bullet Making Dies.



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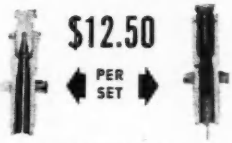

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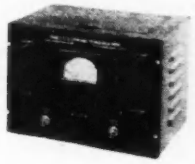

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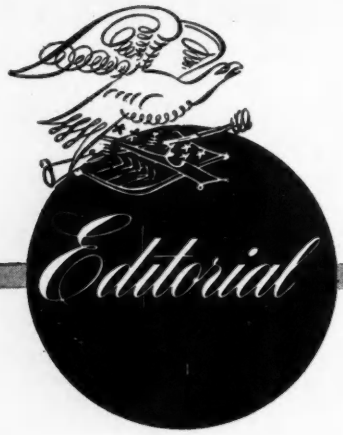
WARSAW *by* BISHOP MISSOURI



Guns and Butter

Americans were a people lean and hard when they carved out of the new-world wilderness a republic which was both a boon and a beacon to the bureaucrat-ridden peoples of the old world.

By old-world standards we were an illiterate lot. But our education was of the kind that came from daily contact with the hard facts of life. So it developed a simple logic that first amused, then irritated, and eventually routed in confusion the theoreticians who dominated the chancellories and universities of the old world.

During the years when America was growing to greatness, neither politician, publicist nor average citizen wasted time worrying about whether we should have guns or butter. Being practical people they accepted the fact that the successful nation, like the successful individual, must keep a well-oiled gun over the mantel if thieves are to be prevented from raiding the pantry. Neither our founding fathers nor any other clean-limbed, practical, hard-working people have ever worried about providing *both* guns and butter. It is only after a nation has grown soft, has placed security ahead of opportunity, has abandoned the principle of self-discipline and self-government for the doctrine of discipline by the state and government by bureaucrats, that the specious cry "guns or butter" is raised. The Swiss have had guns and butter for three centuries. Nor have they labored under back-breaking taxes or lessened freedom for the individual as a result.

It is absurd and the counsel of defeatism to say that America, with all of its tremendous resources and proven abilities, cannot have both guns and butter. But we can only achieve that goal if we put our resources and our abilities *completely* to work in the fashion which built America out of the wilderness. We have got to eliminate "made work" from every phase of our industrial, financial, and governmental lives. We have got to quit spending the taxpayers' money to dredge creeks and to surface roads that bring votes to the politician but add nothing to our productive capacity. We have got to face the fact that in trying to live down our old-world reputation for illiteracy we have wasted millions of dollars and millions of man-hours "educating" good lathe operators into poor mechanical engineers. We have got to change the weird tax structure which makes it more profitable for the successful producer to invest in ivy-covered dormitories than in additional laboratory and plant facilities to produce more and better guns and butter. In brief we have got to get back quickly to the faith of our fathers, to the sound practical philosophy which created America and which has made Switzerland the longest-lived democracy in the history of man. There is no middle ground, no compromise. We will discipline ourselves as free men working and fighting for our individual opportunities and security or we will be disciplined by harder men and we will find ourselves working and fighting to provide opportunity and security for them, our masters.

We face a long, hard struggle. We will work off some excess fat but we will be stronger and healthier for it. We faced and conquered problems relatively tougher in 1776 and in 1865. Now, as then, the key to victory is faith, not fads; hard work, not hysteria.

The Communists outsmarted themselves in Korea by showing us our military weaknesses while there was still time to correct them. They have also outsmarted themselves where it hurts them even more—by showing the world that they must choose either guns or butter. Free men, if they will, may have *both* guns and butter.

C. B. Lister

SAN FRANCISCO GUNMAKERS

BY JAMES E. SERVEN

From gold-rush days to the turn of the century the city by the Golden Gate was the far west's busiest supply center

THE FIRST DAY of April 1849 gave promise of colorful beauty. Rays from an early sun slanted across the coastal hills and cast shimmering lights on the narrow passage men call the Golden Gate. As the *S. S. Oregon* turned in from the sea and nosed toward the sheltered waters of San Francisco Bay, Frank Bekeart stood motionless at the ship's rail, his pulse quickened by the unfolding panorama of what is said to be the largest landlocked harbor in the world. Here at last was San Francisco! The weeks of ocean travel from New York, via the isthmus of Panama, were over.

One of the first of many able gunmakers to pack his tools, get together merchandise needed in the gun trade, and head for California, Frank Bekeart typifies that hardy clan whose adventurous enterprise helped to write some of the most colorful pages in American history.

Bekeart was not alone in migrating to California. In 1848 news of a rich gold discovery at the site of Sutter's sawmill spread to the outer world. The discovery touched off one of the most dramatic mass migrations in history. In the four years following 1848 the population of California swelled from 12,000 to over 250,000.

As Frank Bekeart stepped ashore at San Francisco on that day in 1849 and

saw for the first time the unimpressive buildings scattered along a few deep-rutted streets which led to San Francisco's waterfront, there was nothing that could have led him to envision the mansions and palatial hotels that were later to rise here from the untapped treasures of the Mother Lode country and the Comstock mines.

Only two years before, the sleepy village had been known as *Buena Yerba* (good herb—a Spanish name inspired by an aromatic herb which grew profusely on the surrounding hills). When a citizen offered to trade Frank Bekeart a lot on Market Street for a caplock pistol, Frank indignantly refused!

After a few days in San Francisco, along with others from his ship Frank Bekeart set out for the American River, scene of the gold discovery. Later he related:

"It took us three days to reach Sacramento, as we rowed our little boat all the way and slept at night on the banks of the river. One of our companions found a brother at Sutter's Fort. General Sutter treated us royally, slaughtering extra sheep for our benefit, and giving us wine from his vineyard on Feather River. A fine old fellow was General Sutter. He had a company of Indians, dressed and uniformed.

"We engaged a teamster to take us to Coloma, Sutters Mill, on the South Fork of the American River, reaching there after two days of hard, muddy travel. I hired a little empty log house and in a few days had lots of gun work, making over $100 a day in gold dust."

Within a stone's throw of where James Marshall picked up the first flake of gold, Frank Bekeart raised his family and for many years conducted his gun business. His old store still stands at Coloma. It is now a historical landmark, dedicated by the state.

Later, as the mining fell off around Coloma, Bekeart transferred his shop to Placerville, on the main stage line. In 1865 he moved to San Francisco, where he remained active in the gun business until 1890.

The Bekearts are one of the few pioneer California families who have followed the same trade down through the years. Philip Kendall Bekeart, currently active in the California firearms trade, is the grandson of Frank (Jules Francois) Bekeart. Philip succeeded his father Philip Baldwin Bekeart who, undaunted by the disastrous San Francisco fire of 1906, conducted a successful business in firearms and accessories for many years.

Frank Bekeart was not California's only pioneer gunmaker. Many expert craftsmen joined the migration to California and the guns built by such men as Ben Bigelow, Horace Rowell, Fred Hellinghaus and Charles Slotterbek would be hard to beat anywhere. Charlie Slotterbek started his California labors in the famed gunshop of A. J. Plate, to whom our attention now turns.

In May, 1850, an immigrant from Westphalia, Germany, set up a small outdoor stand on Long Wharf, now Commercial Street, in San Francisco. He displayed a small stock of second-hand pistols and ammunition. From this humble beginning, Adolphus J. Plate built one of the largest firearms businesses in the West.

Although Plate was personally more a merchant than a craftsman, he had the wisdom to draw into his organization gunmakers of highest caliber. The Plate gun business flourished, outgrowing shops on Leidesdorff, Sansome and Commercial Streets. In 1866 the firm occupied a spacious three-story building at 510 Sacramento Street. But even this became too small and in 1880 new quarters were obtained at 418-20 Market Street. Two sons, H. A. Plate and A. F. Plate, joined their father in the business and managed it after his death in 1878.

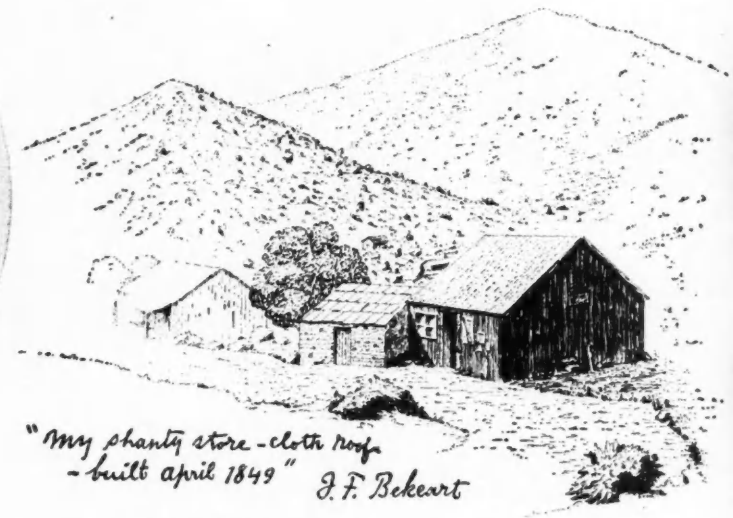
We see guns and pistols rather frequently in California which bear the familiar "A. J. PLATE SAN FRANCISCO CAL." barrel stamp. A fine pair of A. J. Plate dueling pistols is owned by a pioneer family in San Juan Capistrano, not far from my home in Santa Ana.

An amusing story has come down to us concerning small percussion derringer pistols said to have been made in the Plate gunshop. It seems that the Curry brothers, Plate's most ambitious competitors, had managed to get the sole agency for the little pocket pistols made by Henry Deringer of Philadelphia. Curry's advertisements stated: "None Curry & Bro. are the only authorized agents for Deringer pistols in California and none are genuine except marked *Curry, Agent* on the barrels." This got Plate's dutch up, so the story goes, and he swore he would sell Deringer pistols or know the reason why.

One Jeremiah Derringer was listed as a plasterer in the San Francisco directories of 1866-67. Plate made an agreement with this man for the use of his name, and then blithely proceeded to manufacture pistols of the Henry Deringer pattern, but stamped *J. Deringer*. A number of pistols so marked are said to be found in arms collections.

Incidents like this could easily have

Frank (Jules Francois) Bekeart



Top and center: Caplock derringer pistols of the type sold in San Francisco by Curry, Plate, Klepzig and others. Bottom: An English import marked "Liddle & Kaeding—San Francisco"

Few craftsmen anywhere could turn out finer rifles that those which came from the old stone workshop of Horace H. Rowell in the Sierra foothills. These guns are in the Raymond I. Smith collection, Reno

Top: Two shotgun barrels, with rifle barrel centered underneath, were employed by Villegia & Slotterbeck with their three-barrel caplock shown here. Beneath it is a fine breechloader, for which Charles Slotterbeck was granted a patent in 1880. It is caliber .38-55, was made in Lakeport

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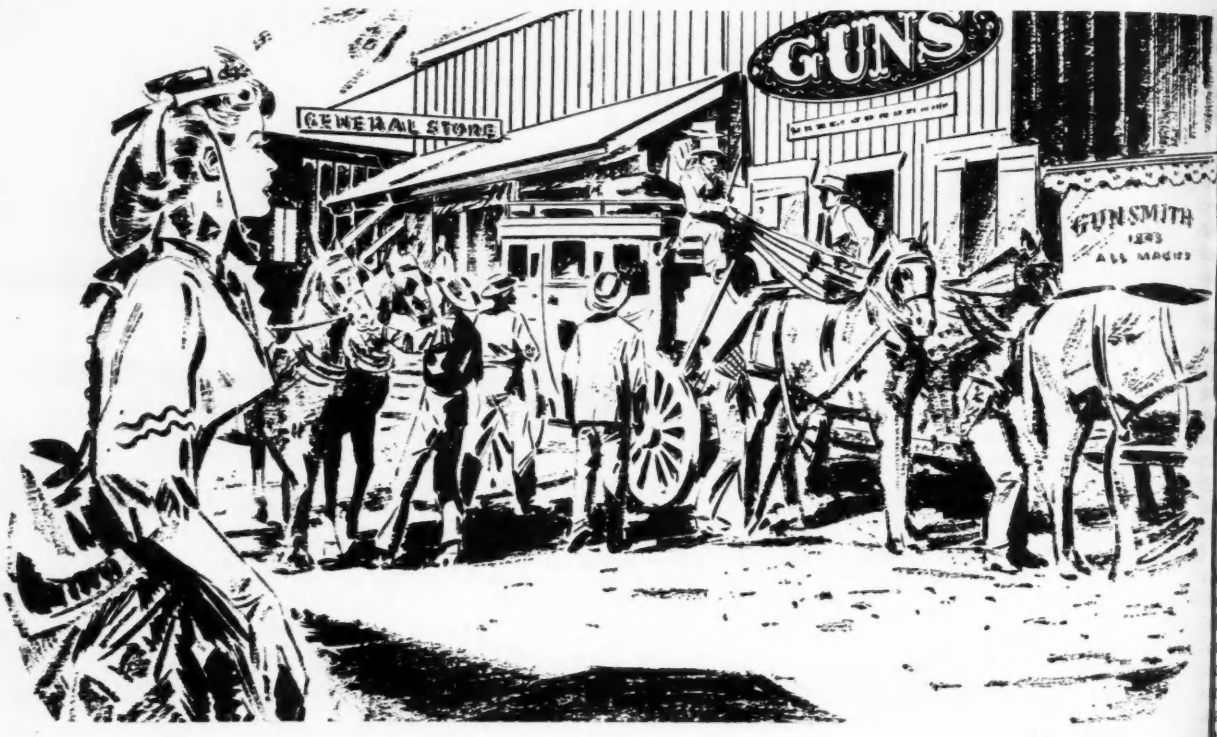
SAN FRANCISCO.

RIFLES and POCKET PISTOLS with the LATEST IMPROVEMENTS.

Top: Caplock hunting rifle by William Van Vlear, a celebrated gunmaker of Stockton. Center: Target rifle, dated 1857, by Kirk Jenner of San Francisco. Bottom: Guns like this were used by the "shotgun guards" on stagecoaches. This one was made by Plate.

Matched pair of Charles Slotterbeck pistols made for precision shooting. Now in George H. Smoots Collection



pen. Few cities have ever gone about their business or their pleasure with as much gusto as did early-day San Francisco! Those were the days of the Barbary Coast and the shotgun-guarded stage coach. Lola Montez, Lotta Crabtree, and Jenny Lind were the current pin-up girls.

Plate's competitor, Charles Curry, a native of Ireland, emigrated to Philadelphia in 1837. Having learned the gun trade in the City of Brotherly Love, Charles Curry was ready to grasp the opportunity when reports of the California bonanza filled every newspaper. Arriving in San Francisco in 1852, only a year after Plate, Curry opened his gun store on Commercial Street. His Irish wit, his experience, and eastern connections served him well. The Curry business prospered and larger quarters were taken at 317 Battery Street.

Charles Curry's brothers, Nathaniel and John, joined him in the business and, after Charles' death in 1863, the firm name was changed to N. Curry and Brother. In 1869 they moved to 113 Sansome Street, which property they subsequently purchased, and where the business was conducted for over twenty years thereafter.

Like Plate, the Currys were importers and manufacturers, selling at wholesale and retail. They handled such celebrated English guns as those made by Greener, Richards, Jones, Adams and Lancaster. Their advertising claimed: "Every variety and style of guns and pistols, from celebrated manufacturers in England, France, Germany, Belgium and the United States . . . a large importing and jobbing business extending to all points tributary to San Francisco, including Mexico and the Sandwich Islands." Along with other contemporary gunshops, they liked to describe their manufacture of guns to order and repair work as being executed "in the neatest manner."

Robert Liddle was another of California's emigrant gunsmiths. When Liddle was twelve years old he was apprenticed to learn the gunsmithing trade, which he followed as a journeyman in Baltimore, Maryland until 1853. Then the lure of the California goldfields could not be resisted longer. Making the long boat trip via the Isthmus of Panama, as did Frank Bekeart, Liddle disembarked at San Francisco, and after a brief fling at mining, found employment in the San Francisco gun shops of P. B. Comins and O. H. Bogart. By 1856 Liddle had opened his own shop at 65 Long Wharf, advertising: "Guns and pistols made to order, or repaired in the best manner."

An old California publication states that Robert Liddle eventually purchased the Bogart gun shop, known as the "Sportsmen's Emporium," and which is listed in directories of 1858 and 1862.

A short time before 1860 Robert Liddle formed a partnership wi Charles Van Beurin Kaeding. Th the firm of Liddle & Kaeding was bo and until 1889, when Kaeding withdre from the business, this was a name th was stamped on hundreds of firearm and a partnership famous throughou the West.

Liddle & Kaeding operated a gu factory in addition to their gun sto Although they imported many firearm especially from England, they bui rifles and shotguns under their ow patent. Prices on these guns rang from $125 to $250. Robert Liddle w also one of the best target shooters i the state.

John P. Clabrough and William G cher, both born in England, travell many long trails before they got togeth in far away San Francisco and engag in the firearms trade. Clabrough reach the West Coast in the fifties, maki the trip by wagon-train across t plains. For some years he worked f the Liddle & Kaeding firm, but fina established his own shop. He was v popular among San Francisco's spo men.

John Clabrough took in his bro Joseph about 1870 and for some y the business was known as Clabro and Brother. A few years later Wil Golcher, who had come to San Fr cisco from St. Paul, Minnesota, bo into the firm and the name was chan to Clabrough, Golcher & Co. Willi

Golcher was one of a number of well-known craftsmen bearing the Golcher (or Goulcher) name. This clan was especially well known for the manufacture of gun locks.

Golcher had built up a substantial gun trade in St. Paul and had gained considerable fame as an expert shot with shotgun or rifle. He soon let the shooters of the west coast know his mettle, too, and became the winner of numerous California matches.

Shortly before 1870, John Clabrough returned to England and, due to the availability of labor there, established a gun factory in Birmingham. He retained an active interest in the California firm, returning occasionally, but most of his time henceforth, until he returned permanently to California in 1893, was devoted to the Birmingham factory, whence many guns were shipped to the California store.

Upon William Golcher's shoulders eventually rested the main responsibility of the San Francisco business. After his death in 1886, the business was carried on by two sons, Henry C. Golcher and William J. Golcher. The firm name was changed to H. C. Golcher Co. and continues in operation today, under the direction of Mr. Benned Golcher.

My personal nominations for the greatest of California's pioneer gunmakers would certainly include Charlie Slotterbek. Like many other gunmakers in the early days, Slotterbek spent most of his time in gunshops operated by others. While relatively poor in worldly goods, this immigrant possessed

158 Business Directory and Alphabetical Office.

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(Successors to Chas. Curry),

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IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

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AND

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POWDER, SHOT,

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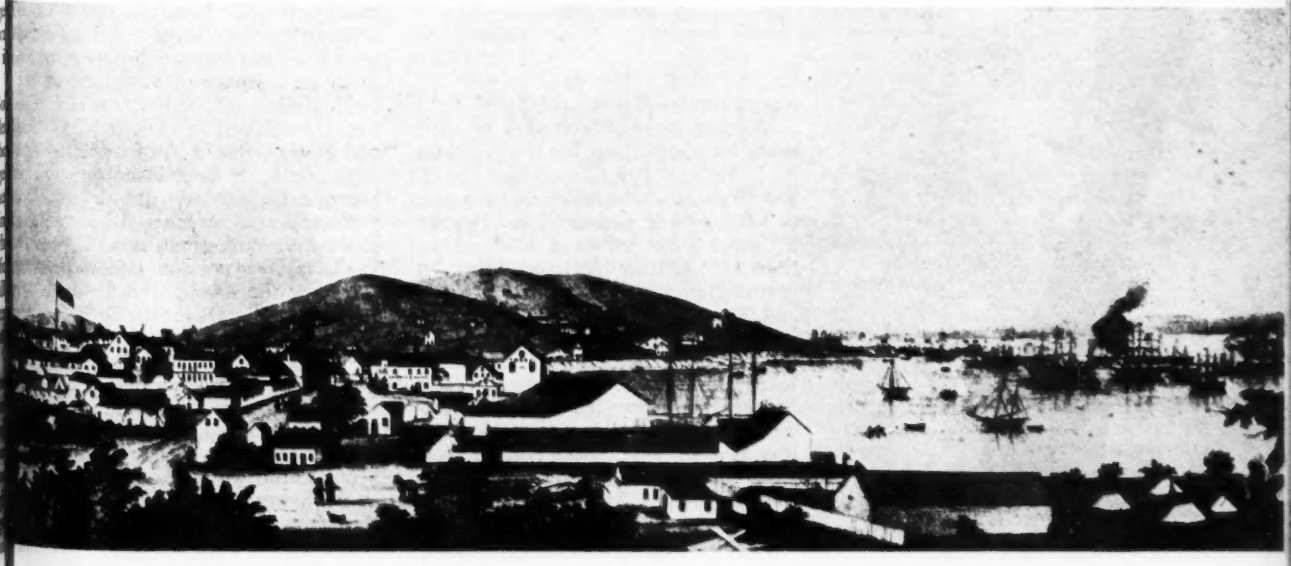
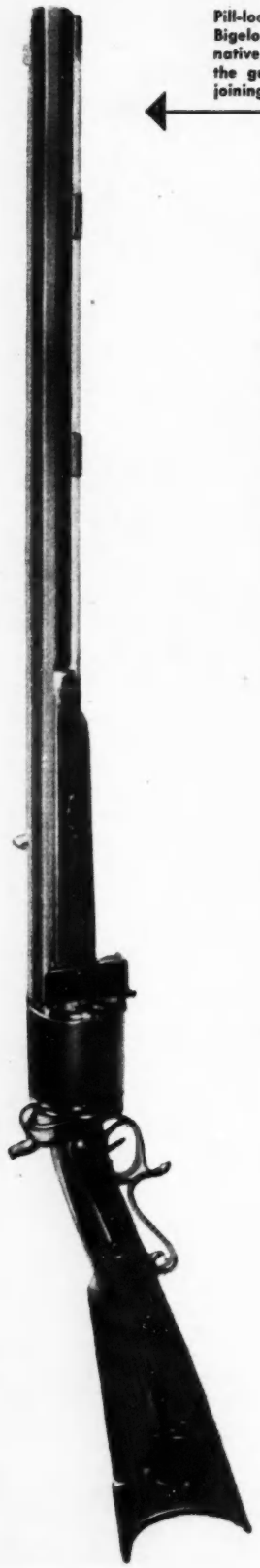
Also, Colt's Deringer's, Sharp's and Smith & Wesson's Pistols. Every description of Gun Material, and has on hand Guns, made by the best English Makers. Henry's Repeating Rifle, Sharp's, Colt's, Wurfflein, and Leman's Rifles. Cartridges of every description.

N. B.—N. Curry & Bro. are the only authorized Agents for Deringer Pistols in California, and none are genuine except marked "Curry, Agent," on the barrels.

All Kinds of Guns Repaired in the Neatest Manner.

This old wood engraving shows San Francisco as it looked in 1849, the year of the gold rush





Pill-lock revolving rifle made by Ben Bigelow of Marysville. Bigelow was a native of Rochester, N. Y., and learned the gun trade from Billinghurst before joining the rush for California gold

160 *Bonsell Directory and Mercantile Guide.*

A. J. PLATE,

IMPORTER, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

411 SANSOME STREET,

Between Commercial and Sacramento. SAN FRANCISCO.

DOUBLE BARREL GUNS, RIFLES,

Pistols, and Gun Trimmings,

POWDER, SHOT, LEAD AND CAPS.

NEW WORK MADE TO ORDER

And Repairing executed in the Neatest Manner.

a great wealth of gunmaking genius.

We first learn of Slotterbek in 1859 when he was working for the sagacious A. J. Plate at 103 Commercial Street, San Francisco. Slotterbek was a native of Wurtemburg, Germany, and became a United States citizen in 1861.

In 1868 Charlie Slotterbek formed a partnership with Leopold J. Villegia and they operated a shop at 730 Washington Street until 1872. In 1872 Slotterbek moved north of San Francisco to the little town of Lakeport. Here he spent the next ten years and produced some of his finest work. His shop was a small wooden structure with a steep roof, located on Main Street. A shop for women's wear now stands on the site!

Fred Slotterbek, a brother, helped at the Lakeport shop. Here were produced fine percussion rifles and pistols, and then later breech-loading arms.

Charles Slotterbek was granted a patent dated October 5, 1880 for a break-open rifle with hinged barrel, somewhat similar to the familiar shotgun principal. I own one of these fine guns chambered for the .38-55 cartridge.

We learn from the old directories that Slotterbek finally returned to San Francisco in 1883, and spent the remainder of his active years working in the shops of A. J. Plate & Co. and N. Curry & Bro. Charles Slotterbek was one of those rare craftsmen who could build a beautiful gun from a bar of iron and a plank of wood.

As you can observe from the nativity of men already mentioned, San Francisco drew to it many nationalities. It is significant that Bernard Lagoarde, one of the leading gunmakers of the fifties, presented his advertisements both in English and in French. Nationalities were quickly fused in those early days, however, for the sense of remoteness and isolation from the rest of the world brought men close together.

There were others in San Francisco —Taylor, Jenner, Klepzig, Schneider and Ladd, well worthy of mention. But now it is time for us to consider some of the outstanding gunmakers in the area outside of San Francisco.

Sacramento could easily qualify as the state's second city in number of early gunshops. Here many able workmen set up their shops. Among them were Fred Hellinghaus (formerly of St. Louis and winner of an award at the 1857 Industrial Exposition in San Francisco), the Flohr brothers, Wilson and Evans (later in San Francisco) and John Smith. A short distance north of Sacramento, in Marysville, the Bigelow gunshop was established; it became one of the most famous in the state.

The swiftest of the famous clipper ships was the *Flying Cloud*, which set a record of 89 days for the 13,000 miles from New York, around the Horn, to the Golden Gate. Ben Bigelow made that long trip around the Horn in a similar ship, the *Palestine*, and arrived in San Francisco in 1850.

Although Ben was born in Nova Scotia, most of his life had been spent in Rochester, New York, the home of the great gunmaker William Billinghurst. Bigelow's *(Continued on page 4*

A roster of pioneer California gunmakers and gunshops, with their location and approximate dates of operation

Adams, Christopher, SF (1876)
Allen, Edward T., 515 Market, SF (1878)
Allen, H. S., Placerville, Folsom (1860-78)
Armes & Dallam, 115 Front, SF (1879)
Bach, John, San Francisco (1857)
Barton & Rutter, 609 Clay, SF (1870)
Bauer, C. (Partner of J. Klepzig), 212 Wash., SF (1856)
Baumann, Jos., 510 Broadway, SF (1870)
Beck, August, 510 Broadway, SF (1874)
Becker, F. J., Oroville (1875)
Bekeart, Frank (Jules Francois), Coloma, Placerville and San Francisco (1849-1890)
Bigelow, Benjamin, Marysville (1852-1888)
Bigot, Leon, 150 Sacramento, SF (1859)
Blewitt & Johnson, SF (1864)
Bluemel, Julius, SF (1876)
Blunt, Wm. G., 639 Market, SF (1868)
Bogart, O. H. (Bogart Bros.), SF (1858)
Bonnetti, G., San Jose (1870)
Bourgin, Peter, SF (1871), Oakland (1880)
Bradshaw, Samuel C., SF (1868)
Brand, W. H., Santa Rosa (1875)
Brooks, Geo. G., Coluso (1875)
Brown, A. F., 112 Battery, SF (1858)
Browning, August, 651 Wash., SF (1871)
Browning & Heber, 653 Wash., SF (1873)
Busselman, A., Ukiah City (1875)
California Arms Co., SF (1877)
Cameron & Hosmer, Colusa (1875)
Chapin & Sawyer, SF (1852)
Charles, H., Stockton (1850-57)
Clabrough, John P. (Clabrough & Bros.), SF (1856-1870)
Clabrough, Golcher & Co., 630 Montgomery, SF (1870-1895)
Clark, R., Main St., Salinas City (1875)
Comins, Loring, 73 Davis, SF (1856)
Comins, P. B., 125 Commercial, SF (1852)
Cotrel, Wm. D., SF (1871)
Crabtree, E. J., 114 Washington, SF (1856)
Craig, Jos., San Bernardino (1875)
Crane, Albert E., SF (1867-71)
Cullen, T., 87 Battery, SF (1859)
Curry, Charles, SF (1852-1863)
Curry, John, SF (1860-1890)
Curry, Nathaniel (N. Curry & Co.), SF (1860-1890)
Dausseaux, H., San Andreas (1875)
Darr, C., 103 Commercial, SF (1871)
Davis, Z. P., Broad St., Nevada City (1875)
Denslow, C. A., Anaheim and San Diego (1875-80)
Doermer, Chas., San Jose (1882)
Durin, S., Third St., San Juan South (1875)
Eberhardt & Son, Sacramento (1880-1940)
Eckhardt, Henry, Sacramento (1875)
Edelmann, Jos., 902 Larkin, SF (1878)
Edler, F. A., Sacramento St., Auburn (1875)
Egger, Wm., 507 Dupont, SF (1874)
England, W. P., Santa Cruz (1875)
Fischer, N., Sacramento (1880)
Fisher, J. T., San Luis Obispo (1875)
Flohr, Andrew, Sacramento (1850-1873)
Flohr, Chas., 145 K St., Sacramento (1875)
Flores, Justo, San Bernardino (1875)
Fox, H. A., 69 Jackson, SF (1858)
Gates, F., 37 Sutther, SF (1877)
George, Peter, Marysville (1875)
Gibbons, Rodmond, San Francisco (1870)
Gordon, F. D., Marysville (1870)
Golcher, Wm., San Francisco (1877-1886)
Gruber, Jacob, Chico (1875)
Harris, B., Leidesdorff, SF (1860)
Harris & Bapto, Leidesdorff, SF (1871)
Hart, R. C., SF (1878)
Hatch & Cary, Sacramento (1880)
Heber & Moller, SF (1877)
Heinrich, L., 7th & J St., San Diego (1875)
Hellinghaus, Fredk., Sacramento (1851-59)
Herket, John, Pacific near Front, SF (1858)
Hickman, L. M., Stockton (1875)
Honmich, Chris, San Jose (1882)
Huber, C. F., Stockton (1875)
Hunt, J. L., 2133 Battery, SF (1871)
Hunter, G. W., Merced City (1875)
Jenner, E. Kirk, San Francisco (1856-57)
Joost Bros., Mission & 11th, SF (1878)
Kaeding, Chas. V., SF (1860)
Kingsley, G. L., Red Bank (Percussion era)
Klepzig, J., 212 Washington, SF (1852)
Klepzig & Co., 212 Washington, SF (1856)
Kohnke, John, 210 Sansome, SF (1877)
Koppekus, Adolph, Sacramento (and other locations) (1855-1870)
Krepper Bros., 430 11th, Oakland (1880)
Ladd, Chas. D., SF (1875-79)
Lagoarde, Bernard, SF (1856)
Leonard, G. O., Red Bluff (1875)
Leu, Valerian, 131 Georgia, Vallejo (1877)
Liddle, James H., Main St., Visalia (1875)
Liddle, Robert (R. Liddle & Co.), SF (1856-60)
Liddle & Kaeding, SF (1856-02)
Liever, John, Los Angeles (1875)
Lord, G. N., Santa Barbara (1875)
Macondray & Co., San Francisco
Maydat, V., Pacific St., SF (1856)
Mayhew, G. H., Main St., Red Bluff (1877)
McBrown, Wm., Hollister (1875)
McClure, J. P., Monterey (1875)
McDaniel, John, Lake City (1875)
McElroy, T., 38 Third St., SF (1856)
Mentz, I. G., Marysville (1870)
Meyer, Chas., San Francisco (1874)
Miller, G., Sacramento
Minges, John, Stockton (1852)
Morey, David, Watsonville (1875)
Morey & Howard, Watsonville (1876)
Mukel & Co., 160 Dupont, SF (1875)
Newhoff, F., Leidesdorff St., SF (1858-66)
Nordheim, G. A., Yreka (1852-90)
Oxenham, A. H., 19 Sansome, SF (1866)
Page, S. B., Marsh St., Antioch (1875)
Palmer, C. F., Panamint (1875)
Peace, I. H., 2011 Mission, SF (1878)
Perry, A., Dutch Flat (1875)
Plate, A. J., SF (1850-1878)
Plotz, J. C., Stockton (1850-56)
Pool, J. E., Hollister (1875)
Pope, H. S., San Buena Ventura (1875)
Ray, Horace, Mokelumne Hill, (1875)
Rhodes, W. H., Santa Cruz (1875)
Riley, Wm., Colusa (1875)
Robertson, G., 206 Montgomery, SF (1875)
Rode, Christian, Oakland (1889)
Rollins & Co., Market St., SF (1875)
Rowell, Horace H., Sonora (1853-1900)
Royon, Edward, 838 Clay, SF (1871)
Rudolph, Wm., Jackson St., SF (1859-66)
Schade, John, Sacramento (1850-66)
Schaeffer, Henry, said to be 1st gunsmith in Los Angeles
Schaffer, H., Sacramento (1849-60)
Schilling, F., San Jose (1882)
Schneider, Alois, Washington, SF (1877)
Schneider, Wm. H., 28 Geary, SF (1877)
Schneider & Browning, SF (1868)
Schoenemann, Fredk., SF (1879)
Schoenemann, Otto, 609 Clay, SF (1873)
Scholl, C. F., Marysville and Oakland (1855-80)
Schuyler, Hartley & Graham, SF (1866)
Schweiser, G., Sacramento (1858-65)
Severin, F., 293 Dupont, SF (1860)
Shreve, G. W., SF (1879)
Simpson, Geo. W., 320 16th St., SF (1879)
Skinker, John 108 Battery, SF (1878)
Slotterbek, Charles, SF and Lakeport (1859-1883)
Slotterbek, Fred, Lakeport (1875)
Slotterbek, H., Los Angeles (1875)
Smith, James, Colfax (1875)
Smith, John, Sacramento (1870-95)
Smith, T. L., San Francisco (1877)
Soper & Remington, SF (1877)
Sourisseau, Felix, San Jose (1875-82)
Sprague, Z., Main St., Stockton (1875)
Steiger & Son (W.A.), Petaluma (1875)
Stoddard, W. M., San Jose (1860-62)
Stoermer, A., Los Angeles (1875)
Storkwell, Jos. P., Sacramento (1840-58)
Studte, F., 166 Commercial, SF (1860)
Sutfin, W. A., Marysville (1880-1900)
Sutherland, S. W., 504 Kearny, SF (1877)
Swingle, Alfred, 13 Fremont, SF (1877)
Swingle & Huntington, SF (1873)
Taylor & Co. (A.J.), 209 Clay, SF (1856)
Taylor & Henev, Eureka (1875)
Teutenberg & Deissner, SF (1877)
Tripp, S. G., Merchant St., SF (1852-56)
Van Vleat, Wm. H., Stockton (1853-83)
Villegia, Leopold J., SF (1879)
Villegia & Slotterbek, SF (1868)
Vovit, August, 44 Fourth St., SF (1870)
Waddamus, W., Chico (1875)
Warnekos, W. W., Petaluma (1878)
West Bros., 1st St., Napa (1877)
Wethered, J. S., San Francisco (1857)
Wilson & Son (H.H.), SF (1877-79)
Wilson & Evans, Sacramento and SF (1862-76)
Womstead, L., Crescent City (1875)
Woodward, Ben, Main St., Napa (1875)
Woolsey, J. S., Gilroy (1875)
Zingg, Conrad, 334 Fourth, San Jose (1875-82)
Zingg, J., 346 First, San Jose (1882)

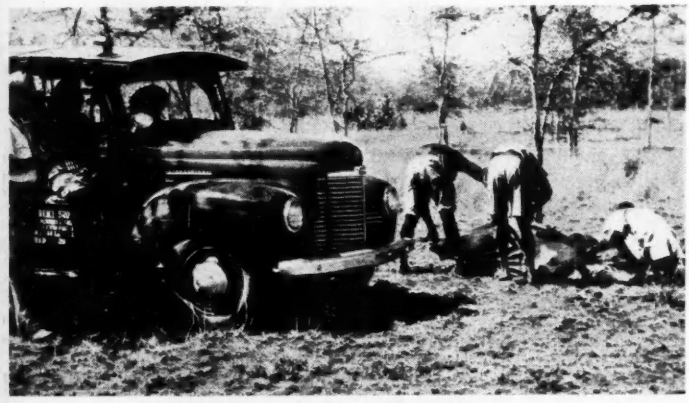
*Wildcat: Any custom-made or non-standard cartridge, in distinction to those made by arms companies

Letters of a Wildcatter*

BY DONALD S. HOPKINS

PART I

Fringe-eared oryx in desert country of Kenya



Skinning a zebra, Tanganyika, 1949

Dear Charlie and Elmer:

Our stay of three weeks in London has proven of gre interest to both of us—to Marge because she could visit th historic spots of London, and to me because I could visit me of the famous London gunmakers. The present status of mo of the old-time gunmakers is very difficult. Between mon tary regulations, government restrictions, and lack of materi they are having an extremely tough time. Some of them ha given up in despair and the others seem merely to be han ing on.

Our heavy double rifles, built by James Purdey and Sons London, have been tested and sighted in at the shooti grounds. Both rifles are superb pieces of hand craftsmansh at its best and are fully up to prewar quality. The accura is quite astonishing. Even with aperture sights Marge's li .404 made minute-of-angle groups. My .465 is extrem accurate, too; but what pleases me most is the splendid balan and feel of the rifle which weighs only 10 pounds 1 oun It handles like a double-barreled shotgun, and is totally d ferent from the cumbersome, heavy double of a generati ago. The use of tungsten steel barrels makes possible t considerable reduction in weight and the improvement balance. This rifle, the manufacture of which was start over a year ago, has certainly been worth waiting for.

A trip through Purdey's factory has been most interesti Utmost skill and perfection of workmanship is demanded all the employees, and no gun is declared complete unless it as near perfect as it can be made. The general manager the factory, Mr. Harry Lawrence, and I have had many pl ant gun talks together, and his attitude has entirely dissipat in my mind any notion of extreme conservatism in the Brit manufacturer. Mr. Lawrence's chief desire seems to be improve his product if it can be done. Everybody has be kind and courteous to me, and my contact with English g makers has been pleasant in the extreme.

Best regards,
Don

Don Hopkins' second elephant, 1949

Dear Charlie:

Our camp is pitched near Makindu, a station on the railway that runs from Mombasa to Nairobi and thence to Lake Victoria. Before the war this was a famous game section, but the slaughter of game to feed prisoners of war has left it rather barren of most animals.

Three days ago we trailed a herd of zebra into a country of thorn scrub and scattering green bushes. Before the zebra came into range, a herd of impalla walked across our path. The biggest buck was shootable and offered an offhand shot at about 125 yards. The 300-grain soft-nose bullet from the .334 OKH took him high through the shoulder and emerged through the opposite side, tearing a two-inch exit hole. Missed the opposite shoulder. Buck dropped dead on the spot, but the performance of the bullet is in accord with our expectations, i.e., it expands too rapidly at 2525 feet per second to give perfect performance. (The impalla is about the size of our whitetail deer.) While the impalla was being skinned out, a lion grunted a short distance away but did not put in an appearance, although the smell of blood was an inducement to bring him out of the brush. Possibly a taint of white man's odor mingled with the blood smell and made him cautious.

On our way back to the car a startling event occurred which shows how a fellow can be surprised in this country. As we were passing a large thick green bush about ten yards to one side of the trail there was a snort and a crash, and a rhino erupted from the heart of the greenery. Fortunately he elected to go the other way, because his horn was too short for a trophy. The odd thing about this occurrence was the fact that the four of us had passed that same dense green bush about a half hour previously and then the rhino had never moved. Possibly the wind shifted a bit during our return trip. At any rate the appearance of that beast was a great surprise to all of us.

Yesterday our hunt took us in a different direction in search of waterbuck. No waterbuck appeared; but the fresh tracks of a herd of buffalo induced us to follow them. They led us into a dense thicket of tall grass. In those close quarters the lack of my .465 double was most discomforting. No buffalo were encountered, but we almost stepped on a rhino in the thickets. Luckily one of the gun-bearers heard him a few yards away and we were able to avoid him by sneaking around him down wind. This is a good country for rhino (or a bad country for them, according to one's viewpoint). In this thick stuff, where one can stumble onto them at close quarters, they can be very dangerous. Horns are poor and it would be a calamity to be forced to shoot one. Africa is absolutely unpredictable. You start out after a zebra or a waterbuck and run into a rhino, lion, buffalo, impalla or anything. I am at a loss to know which rifle to carry.

A kongoni, a waterbuck, one lesser kudu and a couple of impalla have been killed since our arrival. The kongoni required one shot from the .334 at a distance of about 250 yards. The 300-grain bullet hit the top of the shoulder and the spine. The spine was badly shattered for a distance of several inches. Bullet broke up into small pieces and did not emerge. A kongoni is one of the antelope family; it will weigh about 350 pounds. The waterbuck fell to Marge's 30-'06 with duplex loads using the 220-grain Western boat-tail tip-of-lead bullet. One shot just back of the shoulder and high up killed. Animal ran about fifty yards and dropped dead. Bullet went on through back of ribs and was not recovered. Fine penetration and killing power on this one, since a waterbuck is a big animal of about 450 or 500 pounds weight and is reputed to be tough and hard to kill. The lesser kudu was a rump shot at about 150 yards with the .334 and 300-grain soft nose. Bullet smashed hip and put the animal down. A neck shot finished although animal was about dead when approached. The hip had been smashed to a pulp by this 300-grain bullet; additional evidence that the bullet is breaking up too rapidly for ideal performance. Marge's impalla required a shot of at least 250 yards. The buck was walking through scattering bush and Marge shot a bit low, through the brisket and the opposite foreleg, smashing the leg bone, as we learned later. The animal was trailed for well over an hour and blood sign was quite profuse. He was found, completely bled out and dead after having travelled two to three miles. These critters have stamina.

One thing pleases us; and that is the fact that conditions here have not thrown us off our shooting stride too much. Many newcomers complain that it requires a week or two for them to begin to shoot their normal pace on account of entirely unaccustomed light conditions. My guess is that the difficulty is due to the use of iron sights. Our scopes seem to have eliminated that initial difficulty which many Americans encounter over here. The fine .30-'06 and the .334 you built for us seem to be as accurate here as they were on Kodiak Island. Pass this letter on to Elmer, please.

Best Regards.
Don

Dear Charlie and Elmer:

Marge has killed her first elephant. A couple of days ago natives arrived in camp with word of some large bulls in the vicinity. From the Wakamba village we set out thru the acacia trees and thorn bushes until we reached a dense jungle several miles in extent. This patch was so thick that a man could not hope to get through it except by means of the elephant trails criss-crossing it everywhere. Before the jungle

BIOGRAPHY OF DONALD HOPKINS

Donald S. Hopkins has spent almost an entire lifetime with guns. Born in 1900 at Lock Haven (Pa.), he hot with the Yale rifle team for two years. Big-game hunting began when he was twenty. In 1937 he became associated with Charles O'Neil, who had invented duplex loading for rifle cartridges, and with Elmer Keith in the development of the OKH (O'Neil-Keith-Hopkins) line of wildcat cartridges. Hopkins' present African safari, which began last spring, is his twenty-third hunting trip outside the United States. Practically all of his big-game hunts have been of several months duration; altogether, more than six years of his life have been spent big-game hunting.

Hopkins has killed all species of American game except musk-ox, Mexican bighorn, and polar bear. His record, prior to his present African safari, includes also more than forty species of African game. Writes Hopkins: "Diana has granted me many favors . . . such as three Kodiak bears that stood fourth, third and first among the world's records when killed, three wild sheep that were almost 43 inches and another over 42 inches in curl when killed, an Osborne caribou fourth in the world's records when killed, a 48-inch Cape Buffalo, a couple of 'hundred-pound' elephants, and my share of other game. Best of all, there has been the companionship of a wife who loves the wilderness and game as much as I, and who can hold her own with any game shot."

The letters which make up this article, and another to be published next month, were sent from his camps in East Africa to his friends Charles O'Neil and Elmer Keith.

was reached, the trackers found bull tracks (they are much larger than cow tracks, about 20 to 22 inches in length) and led us to three big bulls. As we watched, they disappeared like wraiths into the forest, but not until a glimpse at their tusks had shown them to be only about sixty pounders.

After a hot and weary hike more fresh bull tracks were found and they were followed for an hour or two into the thickest part of this jungle. Then stomach rumblings could be heard, and we waited until the trackers located four animals and returned with the word that one bull had huge tusks. Marge and the white hunter set out ahead, with my gun bearer and me following. The elephants could not be seen until one was almost within touching distance, and then only the heads and backs were visible above the high tangle. At six yards distance from her quarry, a small opening in the bush enabled Marge to shoot the designated bull in the heart region with her .404 Purdey. Amidst a crashing of brush all four animals started running in various directions. Luckily they did not head for us. Marge's elephant ran about a quarter of a mile and was finished when we reached him, a good sized bull with 65-pound tusks. Our white hunter was chagrined and we were disgusted. He had a couple of lame excuses, but there is no reason for such a mistake. Marge will sell the tusks, buy a second license, and try again for a hundred pounder. Her solid bullet stopped in the body.

Typical wilderness camp in the African game country

I tested a 300-grain .334 solid by shooting the carcass between the eyes. This bullet was later found under the skin at the back of the neck. It was probably too low to reach the brain, but it showed excellent penetration.

Best,
Don

Dear Charlie and Elmer:

The elephant hunt has been continuing. For the last month and a half we have been located near the Tana River. The elephants come to drink at the river at night and then generally leave the river jungle by daybreak or shortly afterwards. The river jungle breaks off into a sandy desert, covered with scattered short thorn trees and occasional low green bushes. The elephants often go for miles into this thorn to feed and rest during the daytime. Marge's second elephant was killed in the jungle at a distance of 9 yards. A side head shot from the .404 knocked him down, but he was on his feet again in a few seconds. He turned toward us and I thought for a moment we were going to be stepped on, but luckily he turned sideways again and another side head shot put him down for keeps. He was given a heart shot for good measure and expired shortly. The shot that kept him down was about four inches ahead of the orifice of the ear. This bull has tusks of 102 and 92 pounds.

My two bulls were killed without trouble although the first one, shot at 30 yards, started to come to life after being downed with a side head shot just to the rear of the orifice of the ear. He was out for several minutes, then began to struggle and needed a couple more shots to finish him. One of these finishing shots was directly between the eyes from in front. This bullet, a solid .465, was later found lodged between the base of the tusks. It was badly deformed and lacked a foot of reaching the brain. This frontal head shot from a distance of about five or six yards had about as much effect on the elephant as hitting him with a pop gun. A third shot, at the bottom of the V in the front of the chest, reached the heart and caused death in a short time. This bull was a hundred pounder.

When one gets within a few yards of these animals, he looks at the .465 in his hands and says to himself, "Why did I bring this pea shooter with me anyway; I wish I had a real gun!" in spite of the fact that the .465 throws a 480-grain bullet at 2150 feet. One undoubtedly can kill an elephant with a small gun, but if he misses the brain there will be little shock, whereas a .465 or .470 will generally knock the beast down if the brain is closely missed, I am told. The .470 has an area of about .181 square inches against an area of .063 square inches for a 7 mm. Naturally the solid bullet of the .470 will disrupt a much greater area of heart tissue than will the solid bullet of the 7 mm. and should prove to be a much better killer on the heart shot than the smaller bullet. An elephant can be filled with lead and not be killed promptly if the heart or brain is missed.

The second bull was killed with two side head shots as he walked thru a glade. Both shots were just ahead of the orifice of the ear, although one shot, fired as he collapsed, was slightly high. A heart shot was taken after he had fallen in order to make certain the bull was down to stay. The two bullets from the head were recovered. Both were badly deformed. I am convinced that the jackets of these postwar British bullets need thickening or stiffening, or both. This bull was a 104 pounder.

The brain in an elephant is not easy to locate or hit. It is only about 4 or 5 inches high and 12 inches long. It's center lies almost directly between the orifices of the ears in the center of the skull. The broadside brain shot should not be placed more than 3 or 4 inches ahead of the orifice of the ear and on a level with the ear hole. This orifice is lower than it appears to be in the head of the animal.

Best,
Don

Dear Charlie and Elmer:

After our elephant hunt ended, we changed outfitters. Luckily we lit on our feet, and are now out with Stan Lawrence-Brown and Dave Lunan, a couple of white hunters who are giving us a fine trip. First we tackled the plains game in the Masai country of Kenya. Subsequently our route led

us into Tanganyika after kudu, sable, oryx, rhino, and lion.

The Masai country is most charming, a land of rolling grassy plains, dotted here and there with clumps of thorn trees, and cut up by numerous dongas which are watercourses, lined with trees and bushes. Most of them are dry now, since the rainy season ended the last of May. Our luck in the Masai country was exceptionally good, and we took all the heads we desired within about two and a half weeks. Our bag included two buffalo each (one a 48-incher) and two leopard, besides an assortment of the regular plains game such as zebra, wildebeeste, Thomson's gazelle, waterbuck, topi, kongoni, impalla, and ostrich. No trouble with anything except for the loss of one buffalo which got away wounded. Our sojourn here afforded a grand opportunity to test rifles and bullets, and I list some of our results below. The grass was short, and most times one had an opportunity to shoot

Lions. Photograph by Stan Lawrence-Brown

from the sitting or kneeling position and place his bullets exactly where they should go. That is always a great satisfaction. The shooting car is used to travel over considerable distances and one leaves it to hunt on foot or stalk game if one sees it from the car. Had a dandy stalk of a couple of miles after Marge's first buffalo.

Grant's zebra—225 yards—.334 OKH with 300-grain soft-nose bullet. High shoulder shot. Bullet broke near shoulder and lodged in front of opposite shoulder. Penetrated almost through animal. Bullet shattered badly. About ¼ of jacket remained intact and only a small piece of core remained in jacket. Instant kill.

Topi—200 yards. Frontal chest shot with .334 OKH and 300-grain soft-nose bullet. First shot smashed shoulder and penetrated to rear of chest cavity. Animal ran for 30 or 40 yards, when a second shot at rump smashed hip. Animal died within a few seconds after second shot. The fact that he absorbed a 300-grain bullet with 2525 or 2550 feet muzzle velocity through the shoulder and then ran off shows how tough these beasts are. Neither bullet recovered.

Topi—150 yards. .334 OKH and 300-grain soft-nose bullet. Into high shoulder from front, angling toward opposite side. Topi ran fifty yards and collapsed dead.

Ostrich—125 yards. .30-'06, 220-grain Western tip-of-lead boattail bullet in duplex load. Bullet entered breast near base of neck. Emerged above tail bone in four-inch exit hole. Instant kill.

Fringe-eared Oryx—220 yards. .30-'06, 220-grain tip-of-lead bullet, duplex load. Hit backbone above chest cavity. Angled slightly forward, tearing up four inches of backbone and severing backbone completely. Bullet under skin opposite side. Bullet jacket intact about ⅝ inch ahead of base. Perfect mushroom, with little loss of lead core. Instant kill.

Topi—125 yards—.334 OKH and 300-grain soft-nose bullet. Lung shot. Topi ran a few yards and collapsed dead.

Wildebeeste—225 yards. .334 OKH and 300-grain soft-nose bullet. Heart shot angling forward. Animal ran fifty yards and collapsed.

Zebra—290 yards. .334 OKH and 300-grain soft-nose bullet. Neck shot, killing instantly. Bullet penetrated through neck, just back of head.

Ostrich—250 yards. .334 OKH and 300-grain soft-nose bullet. Hit low and toward rear of body. Ran 50 yards before dropping. Head shot with .22 required to finish.

Wildebeeste—225 yards. .334 OKH and 300-grain soft-nose bullet. Hit in front portion of paunch. Beast ran and took second shot in rump which broke hip and stopped animal which fell and died within a few seconds.

Zebra—275 yards. .30-'06, 220-grain Western tip-of-lead bullet. High shoulder shot. Animal dropped and died at once. Spine smashed.

Leopard—50 yards. .30-'06, 220-grain Western tip-of-lead bullet. Bullet entered neck and ranged back into body, killing instantly.

Impalla—300 yards. .30-'06, 220-grain Western tip-of-lead bullet. Hit just back of shoulder, low down. Animal ran a few yards and died. Bullet emerged in one inch exit hole.

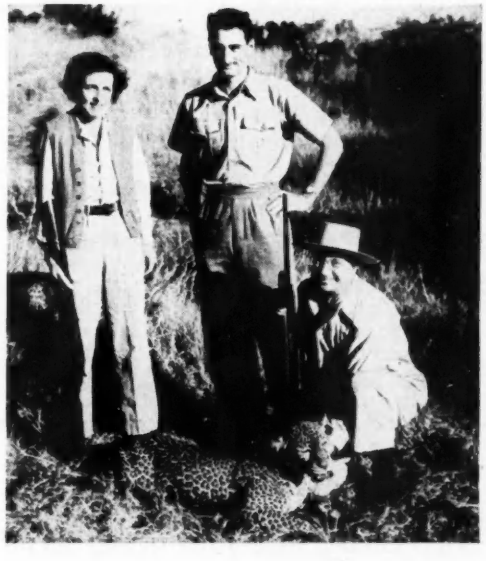
Reedbuck—100 yards. .334 OKH and 300-grain soft-nose bullet. Low through chest just to rear of shoulder. Buck ran off slowly and received another hit in rump which stopped him. Dead when we approached.

Impalla—200 yards. .334 OKH and 300-grain soft-nose bullet, first shot. Next four shots, 300-grain solids. First shot hit high back of shoulder as buck was running. Next four were through body as buck ran into bush. Buck dead when approached. The solids whipped through without bothering animal much as would be expected when bone was not touched.

You will note two things from the above examples: one, that no animal went down when hit unless the shoulder, spine or neck was struck; and second, that an animal not hit perfectly remainded on its feet and ran, and either required a second shot or lived some little time. These creatures are extremely tough and take a lot of killing. I think they have got to be tough because they are harried by lions and leopards constantly. If they were soft, they would not last long.

The four buffaloes we killed in the Masai certainly lived up to their reputation of toughness. The ones we have encountered thus far can certainly take it. Marge's first one received a neck shot from the .404, possibly a bit high. It sagged to its knees but when the herd started running it kept right up with them then worked to the edge and slowed a trifle. Marge started pounding it and the white hunters joined in. Before the bull dropped, it had covered about 300 yards and absorbed ten or eleven hits from a .404, a .465, and

Marge, Dave Lunan, Don, with Don's first leopard



.475. Marge's second bull was hit low in the shoulder with the .404. He sagged but recovered, and started for the thick bush, whereupon Stan Lawrence-Brown socked him one with the .465. Marge hit him four times more in the shoulder region and he finally went down for good. My first buff received a .465 bullet in the spine just back of the shoulder. That broke him down but he needed five more shots from the .465 in the lower shoulder region before he went off his front feet. My second buff required six shots from a .465 in the chest and shoulders before he toppled over. All bulls were killed at about one hundred yards. One buffalo was wounded and lost. He whirled just as Marge was about to shoot for the shoulder and her .404-caliber bullet landed too far back. The animal took several more before he got into the bush, but he was not stopped. The blood trail was followed until it petered out. A hunt of three days for this buffalo ensued but he could not be found. Nice playmates, these!

You can see why I cock an eyebrow when I read about charging buffalo being killed with one shot. Our white hunter says it can be done if the buffalo is hit in the brain!

I am quite chagrined. I missed a nice cheetah. He was running at a distance of well over three hundred yards. Two shots failed to connect. This is the first head of game we have missed since our arrival. Maybe he would be dead if a .285 had been in my hands, although a cheetah really can move.

Best,
Don

Dear Charlie and Elmer:

The use of open sights seems to be almost universal in this country. It is easily understandable as far as the heavy doubles are concerned, but it quite astonishes me to note the absence of aperture sights or good scope sights on light rifles. Certainly the white hunters appreciate scope sights and our hunters use them beautifully on game. Knowledge and interest in ballistics is not so keen as it is among American hunters, but there is much comment in regard to actual results of various weapons on game. Here that is a good criterion of a cartridge because so much game is killed. It amused me greatly to have our first white hunter assert that a bullet would drop to a much greater extent if shot over water than if shot over land.

Among light rifles here the .30-'06, 9.3 x 62, .318 Western Richards, .333 Jeffery, .350 Rigby Magnum, and .375 Magnum are well liked. Prior to 1939 many good Mausers were imported to Africa. These rifles in .30-'06 and 9.3 x 62 caliber probably are the most extensively used at present— at least in the sections of Kenya and Tanganyika where we travelled. In the .30-'06, the 220-grain bullet is first choice, with the 180-grain bullet second.

The .470 caliber seems to be the most widely used heavy rifle in this portion of Africa. The .465 is also popular. The .450 No. 2 and the .416 Rigby are highly regarded, chiefly because of their good heavy-jacketed solid bullets which are driven by higher-than-average charges of powder and provide deeper penetration than cartridges such as the .450, the .465, or the .475. The huge bulk of an elephant, buffalo, or rhino makes deep penetration of bullets absolutely essential. Since a high-speed soft-nose bullet expands more quickly than does one of lower velocity, and consequently has shallower penetration than does the slower bullet, an extremely high-speed soft-nose bullet from a super-duper cartridge is inadvisable for the big stuff. The .404 is used to some extent but is regarded as an in-between gun—too heavy for the light stuff and a bit too light for the large game. If it were loaded with twenty percent greater powder charge and a somewhat heavier bullet it would be a good one. Marge likes her .404 Purdey because it is light (8¾ pounds), handy, and beautifully balanced, but it does not have enough authority to suit me for life insurance.

My idea for a proper magazine rifle for big game in Africa would be a caliber between .400 and .425, shooting a bullet of 430 to 450 grains weight, the bullet to be driven at 2300 feet per second or more. The jacket on the bullet should be very stiff, hard, and tough in order to resist deformation and insure great penetration without deflection. I think that 75 to 80 grains of DuPont 4350 would closely approach the proper charge. Rifle should weigh about ten pounds, and have a barrel length of 25 inches or less so that it will not be clumsy in the bush. Flat trajectory is no great object here since one seldom shoots at heavy game at a greater distance than 100 yards.

We are now hunting in Tanganyika where conditions are quite different than in Kenya. Here the natives are allowed to have guns, and they do a great deal of damage with their muzzle loading rifles. The game seems wilder here than in Kenya; and undoubtedly harassment by the natives is the chief cause.

Marge has killed some beautiful trophies lately and quite puts me to shame with her shooting. Her sable, eland, and greater kudu were all killed at distances between 300 and 350 yards, the eland running. One shot apiece did for each of them except the eland, which had a broken back and needed a head shot with the .22 to finish. The kudu is remarkably good for this portion of the country, over 52 inches in length of horn, with a wide spread and a heavy horn. That 220-grain Western tip-of-lead bullet continues to perform like a million dollars with perfect expansion every time. Marge has killed a beautiful big heavily-maned lion and a nice leopard. The lion took one in the fanny as he was running straight away. That one knocked him down, but he was up again in a flash and jumping around. A second one in the chest region put him down but he still lived. Since he was in tall grass, a cautious approach was necessary, but the first two shots kept him down for good, and a third shot finished him. Marge's second leopard caused us considerable concern. Only the head was visible in the tall grass when she shot. She missed the head, but crippled the beast. (We later learned that the shot had broken its back.) The leopard dragged himself into a dense thicket. Since there was no way of knowing how hard he was hit, and the leopard could not be located, it was a tough one to work out. Finally Dave brought the 12 bore and some buckshot loads from camp. Then a gun bearer climbed a tree to watch while the rest of the boys heaved clods and sticks into the thicket. Whenever a stick landed near the cat, he emitted the most ferocious growls. Dave and Stan finally got a glimpse of the beast, plastered him with buckshot and that ended things. Luckily his back was broken by the first shot.

My second leopard afforded an interesting shot. He was resting on a high limb and it was impossible to crawl closer than a couple of hundred yards. A gently sloping anthill provided a made-to-order prone position, and the shot could be squeezed off perfectly. Tried for his head since anything but a clean kill would have produced a dangerous situation in the tall grass at the foot of the tree. At the report spotty collapsed and landed on his back with never a wiggle left in him. The 300-grain bullet had gone through the head and neck. Stan and Dave were pleased with the shot; but there would have been little excuse for missing a head that was six or eight inches wide; because the gun was capable of producing minute-of-angle groups. No test of killing power, since any good bullet in that spot would have done the business.

Best,
Don

(To be concluded)

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS CALLED OFF

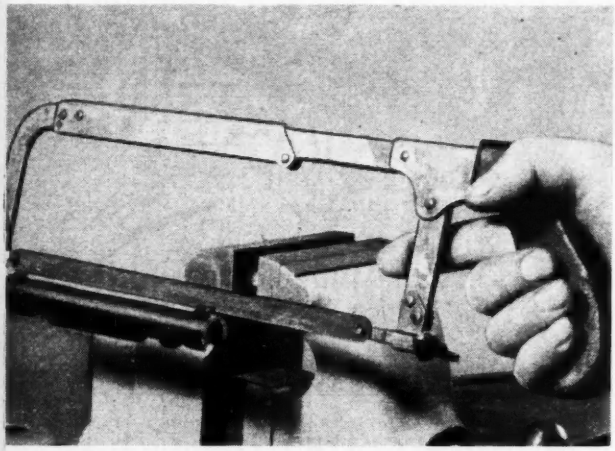
In view of the increasing seriousness of the foreign situation and a growing demand for all-out civilian support of national rearmament and troop requirements, the Executive Committee of the National Rifle Association, at its meeting in Washington on July 29th, cancelled the 1950 NRA Convention and National Smallbore and Pistol Championships scheduled for San Francisco in September and October, and the National Highpower Rifle Championships which were to have been fired at Camp Roberts, California in September.

When the Natonal Rifle Association took similar action in February of 1942 there was considerable criticism from those quarters which felt that America could fight a war while continuing business as usual. Subsequent events proved the leaders of the NRA were merely in advance of the rest of the sports world in recognizing the true state of affairs.

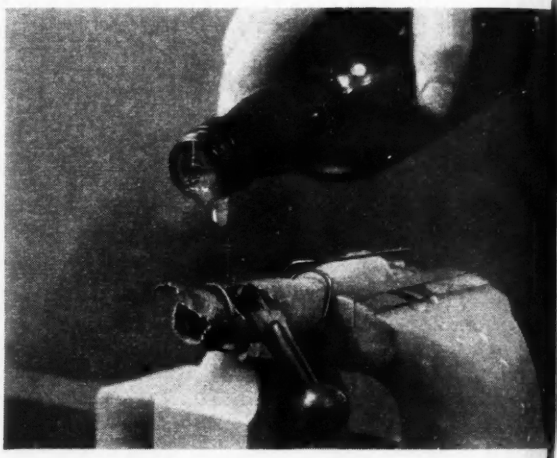
The men who head the NRA believe that the present world situation warrants husbanding all available ammunition supplies and the channelling of both supplies and manpower into an aggressive nationwide small-arms training program even at the expense of the annual championships. For more information, turn to the story on page 59.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
1600 Rhode Island Avenue, Washington 6, D. C.

1 These are the basic hand tools Roy Vail uses in working over Mauser bolts and actions. Starting from the left, the diagonal row of four maneuverable grinders and polishers are made of Carborundum and Carborundum-impregnated rubber. The tool just behind these is Aloxite-tipped for grinding. All are used with the electric, flexible-shaft tool holder. Next are a Carborundum triangle stone and a natural Witchita stone for fine polishing of the sear. Then come two die sinker's riffiers for working around the welded metal of an altered bolt handle. The triangular needle file is for deepening diamonds on bolt knob, which are only laid out by the metal-checkering file to the right. The next tool is a half-round bastard file for bolt-handle work. Then (upper) an end mill, used in a drill press, for cutting a circle on bolt knob, and (lower) a chuck which holds a tip of Carborundum-impregnated rubber, also to be used in drill press, for engine-turning bolt



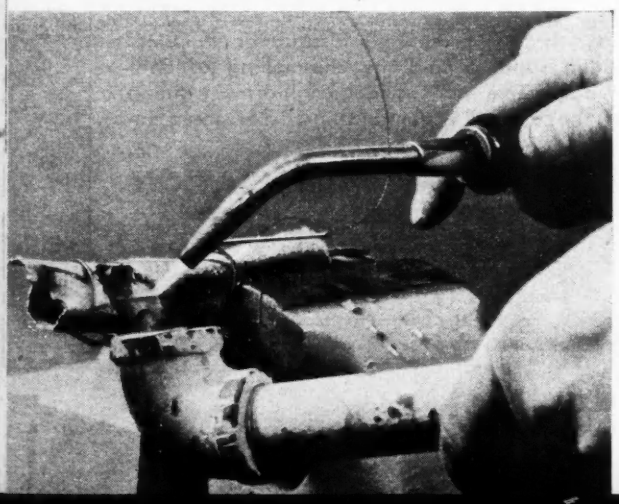
2 First step in altering bolt so it will clear scope and have a more pleasing shape is sawing handle at an angle of about 45 degrees to bolt, deep enough to leave a web of metal at bottom of at least 1/32 inch so as to hold handle in place for welding



4 Keeping the asbestos wet while the bolt cools

3 Vail has wrapped the bolt in asbestos and wired this in place, then wetted the whole thing down with water so bolt's temper will not be impaired while he heats web of metal with an acetylene torch. When the web is red hot he bends bolt handle to desired angle, using the elbow of a pipe

5 Vail does not weld shoulder of altered bolt handle himself b has a garageman—Henry Lust—do this for him. Lust uses oxy-acetylene torch and a steel welding rod. He works fast, with practiced ease of a man who uses this equipment for all types welding off and on during the day. This is important, as slow, p longed welding takes temper from bolt. The asbestos is wetted quently, and a large asbestos plug is stuffed into hollow at rear bolt to keep the threads from getting a crust

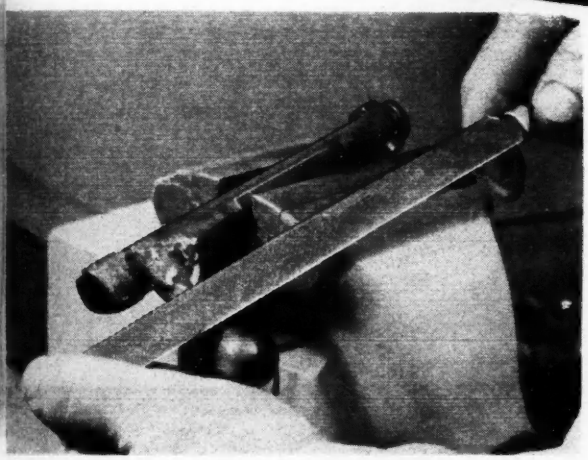


Famed Warwick (N.Y.) gunsmith Roy Vail shows you, in this outstanding picture series, his 'tricks of the trade' as he works over a Mauser action for one of his fine custom sporting rifles

Photographs for THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN by Pete Barrett

A RIFLEMAN "How to do it"

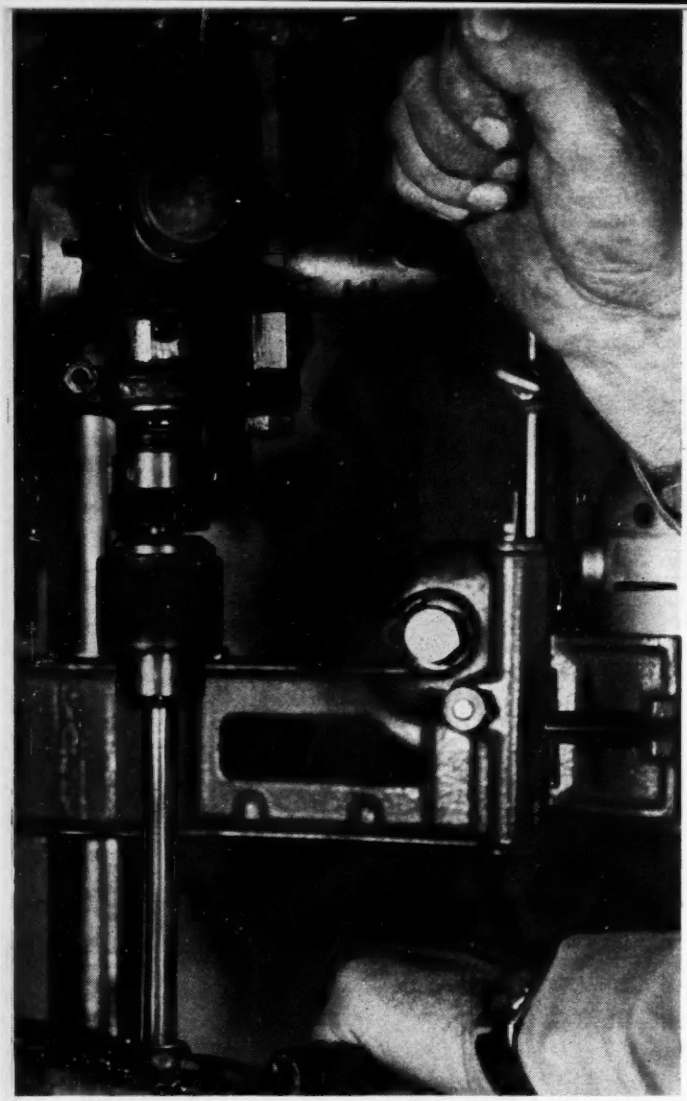
SLICKED-UP MAUSER



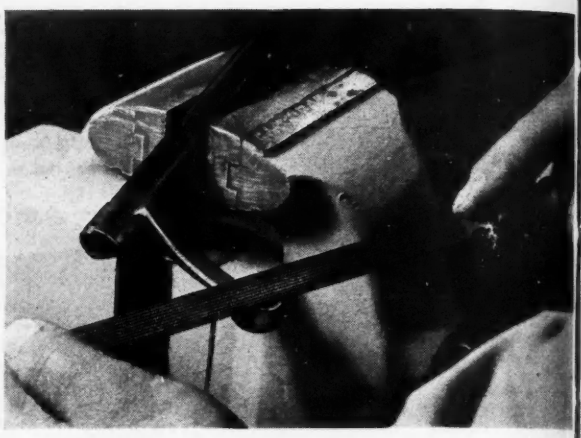
6 After heating bolt handle again to give it a slight, graceful curve, Vail starts to dress it down with a bastard file. Here he uses the half-round side of the file on the handle's top curve

7 In this cutaway of a Mauser bolt, Vail points to threads. Fine emery and oil should be put on them and the bolt head turned in and out perhaps fifty times to smooth the threads and cut any crust that may have formed from heat of welding torch

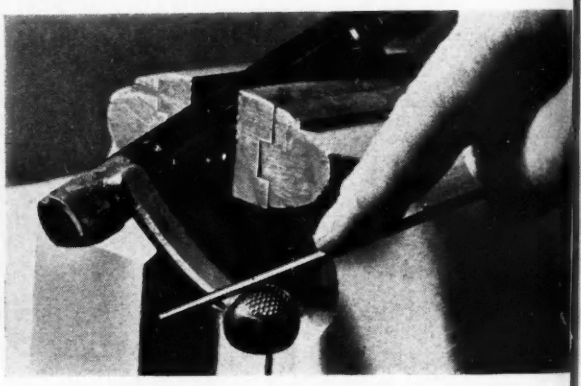
8 So underside of bolt knob will lie trimly against stock, and to save weight, Vail grinds underside of knob away on wheel



9 As a further way to reduce weight, Vail uses a ½-inch drill on drill press to bore a hole about ⅜ inch deep in underside of bolt knob. Prior to drilling, he has tested bolt knob with a file to see if it is hard, in which case he heats the knob to a bright red and lets it cool in wood ashes to anneal



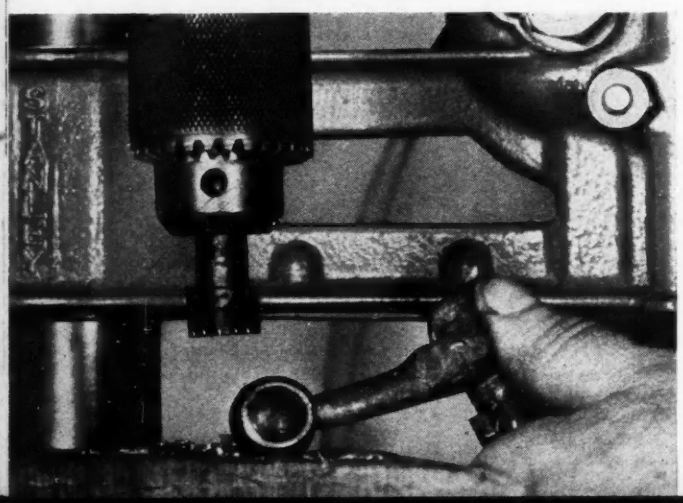
11 The bolt handle has been bent and filed to approximately its final shape. Now with a checkering file Vail lays out the grooves that will form the diamonds of the final checkering

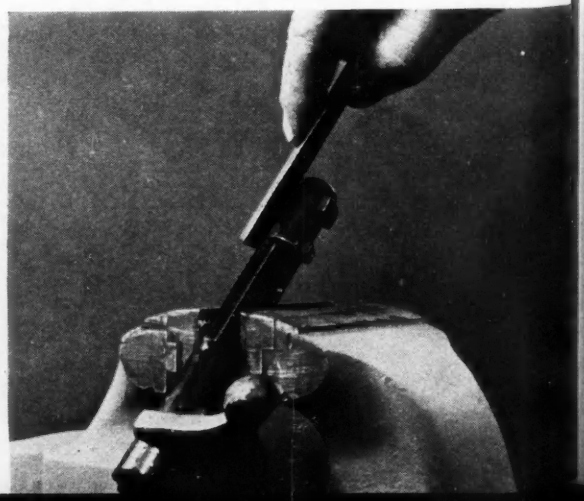


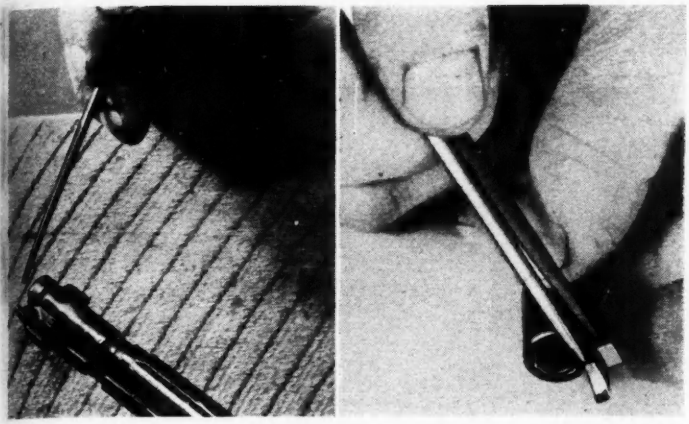
12 Using a triangular needle file to deepen the grooves and form sharp diamonds

10 Here Vail has used an end mill in the drill press to make a circle atop the knob 1/32 inch deep to contain the checkering. The drill press is run at slow speed and plenty of oil is used

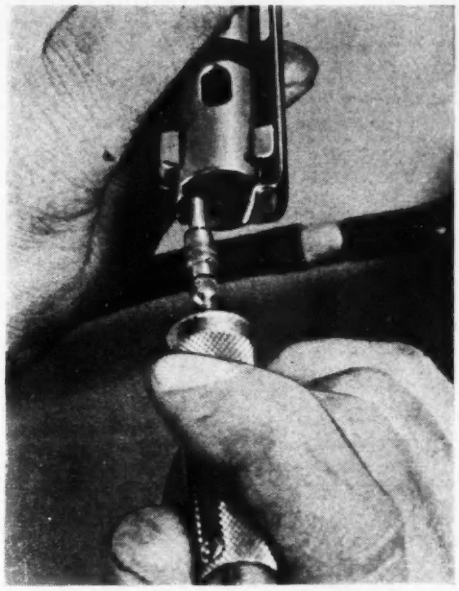
13 A triangular Carborundum stone is used to smooth the angle edges of the locking lugs. This makes for smoother operation when the bolt is opened or closed in the action. The file must not touch the flat surface of the lug



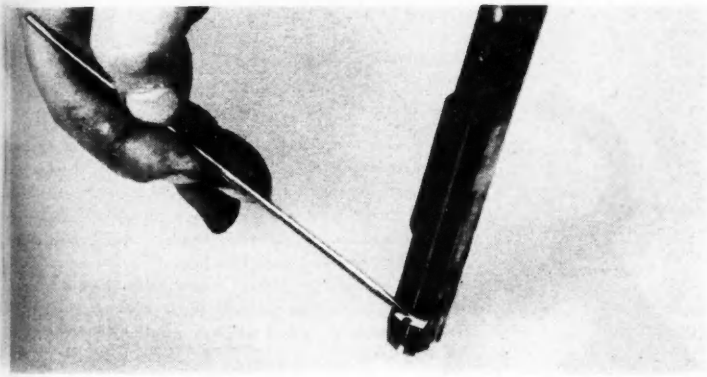




14 When there is trouble with cartridge extraction, the head of the cartridge should be examined to see if brass has been shaved from the rim. If this is the case, then the lower bolt prong—here pointed out (left)—should have its top inner surface smoothed off. Both cocking cam and trigger cam sear (right) should be stoned and buffed to a smooth finish for easy operation

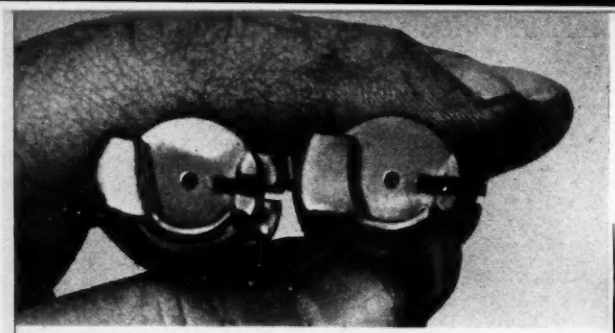


15 Smoothing up inner surface of lower bolt prong



16 During the war some of the satellite countries, as a form of sabotage, left a ridge of metal—shown here on this rough Mauser bolt—in the rear of the extractor slot of the left locking lug. This didn't cause malfunctions in slow fire but in rapid fire the ejector will bounce over this ridge and fail to eject the empty case. When it exists, this ridge should be ground out with a small Carborundum disc

17 A blued bolt, partly polished, resting on the homemade grit wheel that did the polishing. This type of wheel is used in cleaning the action and polishing the bolt and other parts, and is one of the most important single items in the shop. To make a grit wheel, take three or four sewed cloth buffers and put them together, lining up the holes with a dowel. Then daub on a mixture made by warming some old-fashioned furniture or cabinetmaker's glue in a double boiler, to which has been added alundum powder in sufficient quantity to form a thin paste. Let dry overnight. Commercial mixtures advertised in the RIFLEMAN are okay for this purpose too. Felt wheels with a flat surface are best for polishing flat surfaces



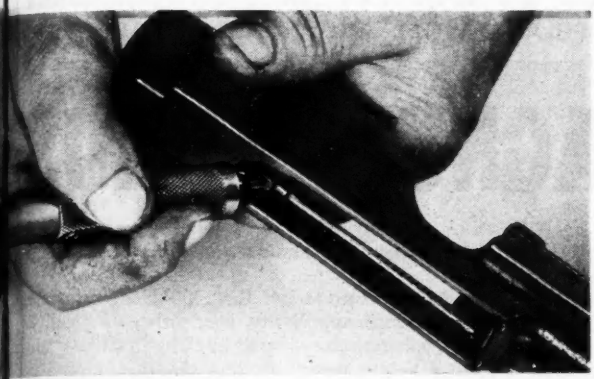
18 Showing a rough Mauser bolt face at left, and at right one that Roy Vail has polished at the lower edge (with his grit wheel) so the bases of cartridges will glide smoothly onto the bolt head. The end of the extractor has been ground and polished so it will slip over the square rim of American cartridges. The Mauser extractor was designed for the chamfered rim of European cartridges

19 Right: Engine-turning the bolt in a drill press, using a Carborundum-impregnated rubber tip. The bolt is guided through the drill-press vise by hand

20 To eliminate the two-stage military pull of a standard Mauser trigger and substitute a smooth, single-stage pull, the contour of the trigger must be altered and a hard bearing surface provided. Vail does this quickly and simply by silver-soldering a discarded dentist's drill, which makes an ideal alloy-steel blank, into the half-circle space shown in picture (right). The drill is then cut off where it projects, smoothed and highly polished on a buffing wheel. The finished trigger, shown at left, has been hard-chrome plated for long wear

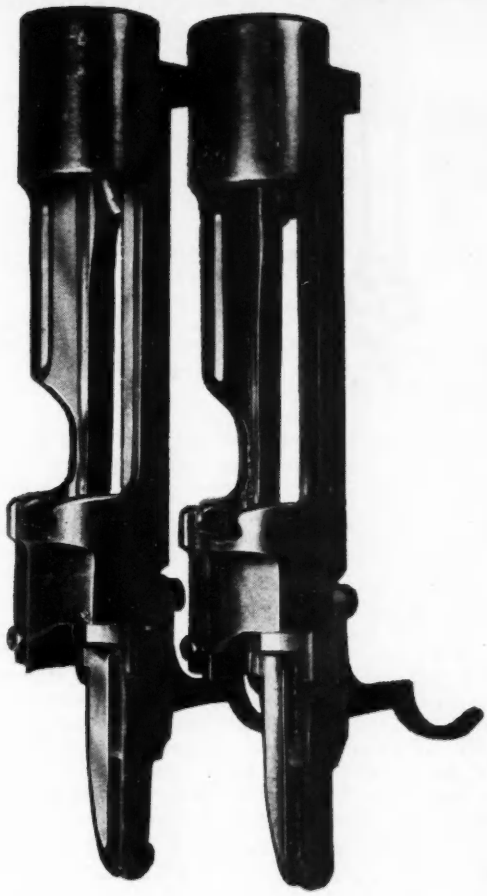
21 The military-trigger bearing surface will have two depressions caused by continual operation of the two-stage pull. This area must be stoned smooth and polished on the buffer. With these steps a crisp, single-stage pull can be had, adjusted to less than 2 pounds

22 Smoothing up the inside of the action with a rubber abrasive wheel, for better operation of the bolt



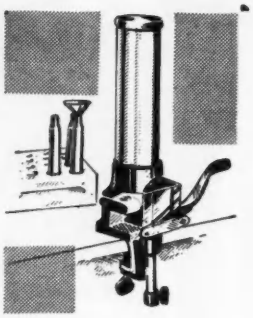
3 The sharp shoulders in the cartridge well should be rounded off so cartridges will feed smoothly

4 Smoothing up the cartridge ramp with Aloxite-tipped tool.



25 At left is a rough Mauser action that has been polished and smoothed on the inside only, compared with a Mauser action completely in the rough. Most recent imported Mauser-type actions need such attentions too

26 At bottom, a Mauser action just removed from its original military barrel. Above it is a similar action that has been polished and altered, together with an engine-turned and altered bolt



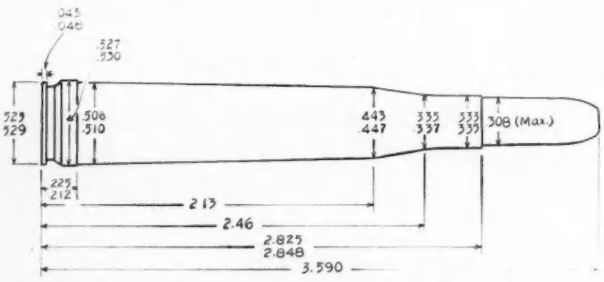
RESUMING THE RIFLEMAN'S SERIES ON HANDLOADS FOR POPULAR TARGET AND HUNTING CARTRIDGES

.300 MAGNUM LOADS

This article on .300 H & H Magnum loads is another of an important RIFLEMAN *series covering popular rifle and pistol cartridges.*

Preparation of the material for the article was handled *jointly by the NRA's Al Barr and the H. P. White Company of Cleveland, Ohio (see* RIFLEMAN, *November 1948, page 21). Five rounds of each of the loads listed in Table 1, with powder charges measured carefully and bullets weighed to within plus or minus .15 grain, were checked for average velocity at 20 feet. The loads were tested for pressure in a 26-inch barrel of .300-inch bore diameter and .308-inch groove diameter, with four narrow grooves of one turn in twelve inches. The loads were fired in a Modern-Bond Universal receiver, using Winchester copper crushers with variation in length controlled to .001 inch, and Winchester tarage tables. Velocities were measured on a Potter electronic counter chronograph. Room temperature was maintained at 80 degrees.*

In the middle 1920's the British firm of Holland & Holland, Limited, was seeking a more powerful .30 caliber rifle than was already available on the British market. It was apparent to them that a larger capacity case would be required. Such a case did not exist in that neck size, so it was necessary to design one. For this purpose they modified the .375 H&H Magnum case to .30 caliber, chambered it in the Mauser



These maximum and minimum dimensions of a .300 Magnum cartridge are averages of measurements taken from ten commercial loads

Magnum action, and about June 1925 introduced the combination as their "Super-Thirty" magazine rifle. The name ".300 H&H Magnum" is apparently of American coinage, since all British references, even today, refer to the gun and the ammunition as "Holland's Super .30."

Writings contemporary with the birth of this cartridge call attention to the fact that the bullet jackets for these rounds were of the American type, being made of "Nobeloy," the British version of Western's famous Lubaloy jacket metal. Since at that time the name of the big ammunition combine we now know as Imperial Chemical Industries was Nobel Industries, Limited, it is not hard to see from whence they derived the name. Copper alloy jackets of this type are less prone to cause metal fouling than the cupro-nickeled types which were, up to that time, standard in the British ammunition trade.

As introduced, and even today, the .300 H&H Magnum cartridge shows marked superiority over other .30 caliber cartridges in its flat trajectory, wind-bucking qualities, and minimum loss of killing power at long ranges. It was the first commercial cartridge to offer a velocity in excess of 3,000 feet per second with a 150-grain bullet. Americans immediately became interested in the new round. Griffin & Howe, the New York custom gunmakers, announced that they were prepared to furnish guns for it as early as October of 1925. The Western Cartridge Company added the ammunition to their line in August of 1925.

Full appreciation of the .300 H&H Magnum was not reached by the majority of shooters in this country until 1935, when Ben Comfort of St. Louis, Missouri, firing in the Wimbledon Cup Match at Camp Perry, made a perfect score at 1,000 yards with 14 V's. The match calls for twenty shots. Comfort used a Griffin & Howe rifle fitted with a Winchester barrel and a 5-power scope. The ammunition was especially made by Western and loaded with 180-grain bullets. The following year, in the same match, the winner and nine out of the first ten shooters used the .300 H&H Magnum. A study of the match scores from that time on reveals that the .300 H&H has become the outstanding 1,000-yard target cartridge.

Today Holland & Holland still offer their "Super-Thirty" rifle, but the present model is made on an Enfield action rather than the older Magnum Mauser. In this country the .300 H&H has been available since 1937 in the Model 70 Winchester and in recent years in the Model 721 Remington. Many custom gunmakers can also furnish rifles chambered for the .300 H&H.

The ammunition is made, at present, in both England and the United States. A comparative table of the cartridge types is of interest:

	Muzzle Velocity Ft. per Sec.	*Muzzle Energy Ft. Lbs.*
British 150-grain soft nose	3000	3000
British 180-grain soft nose	2700	2915
British 220-grain soft nose	2350	2700
U. S. 180-grain expanding	2900	3365
U. S. 220-grain expanding	2610	3330
U. S. 180-grain metal cased, Boattail, Match	3030	3670

Since the .300 H&H Magnum cartridge was introduced into this country, a major problem has been to find suitable loads for it. The powder companies ceased recommending loading data before the cartridge became popular. For that reason, the twenty-two loads in Table I comprise a fairly complete list of .300 H&H loads which have proven accurate and dependable. The .300 Magnum was designed especially for near full-power loads with jacketed bullets, but since

reduced loads with lead bullets are desirable for target shooting several which have proven most reliable are included.

For full-power loads with heavy bullets, 67 grains of 4350 has been found about the most satisfactory powder charge for use with any bullet weighing 172 grains or more. When using 220-grain bullets, however, it is wise to cut the load to 65 grains in order to get moderate velocity and maintain a safe pressure level. Shooters who would like to increase the load can probably do so safely since maximum individual pressure for any .300 Magnum load should be around 56,000 pounds. It will be noted that several loads in Table 1, which have been used safely in a number of different guns, gave slightly higher pressures. One recommended load which we haven't tried, but have received on good authority, is 63.5 grains of Du Pont 4064 with a 150-grain Western open-point expanding bullet. One shooter even used 60 grains of 3031 with 150-grain bullets. Another shooter had fine accuracy using the 170-grain .30-30 boattail bullet with 58.2 grains of 4064.

The last ballistic tables published by Du Pont list a maximum recommended charge with 180-grain bullets of 57.5 grains of 4064, giving 3000 feet per second velocity. In load 10, 58 grains of that powder gave only 2836 feet per second but the load is known to be an accurate one.

Though slower burning powders such as 4064 and 4350 seem to give best performance, even a relatively fast-burning powder performs reasonably well in the .300 Magnum with fairly heavy bullets. A good example is load 11, which uses a 175-grain bullet with 56 grains of HiVel No. 2 to give 2874 feet per second at a reasonable pressure level. For those who want to use the .300 Magnum in varmint shooting, nothing can supplant load 1 with the 110-grain bullet and 66 grains of Hivel No. 2 powder, a wonderful combination. Trajectory is reasonably flat up to 300 yards, although we cannot give exact figures.

Pressure seems to be rather high with load 2 but it has been tried and tested by others as well as ourselves. To obtain over 4000 feet per second with a 100-grain bullet in .30 caliber, with a cast bullet at that, is something to dream about. We cannot see any particular use for the bullet, because it will not expand properly for varmint shooting and, other than for target use, that is about all it is good for. Unquestionably the trajectory would be extremely flat over 200 to 300 yards. We haven't had any trouble at all with the load, but we would suggest that others who are interested in it start with at least 2 grains less powder.

For those who have older types of powder or who want moderate loads in the .300 H&H, those which have been recommended to us on good authority use a 110-grain bullet and 52.5 grains of 1185 with WRA 120 primers and 46 grains of HiVel No. 2 with a 93-grain Luger soft-point bullet. Other suggested loads which have proven accurate in different rifles are 60 grains of HiVel No. 2 with a 150-grain bullet and Winchester 120 primers.

When it comes to lead bullet loads we, ourselves, along with Paul G. Mansfield, New Boston, New Hampshire, have had our best luck using around 25 grains of 4198 powder. An equivalent load would be 22 to 23 grains of 4759.

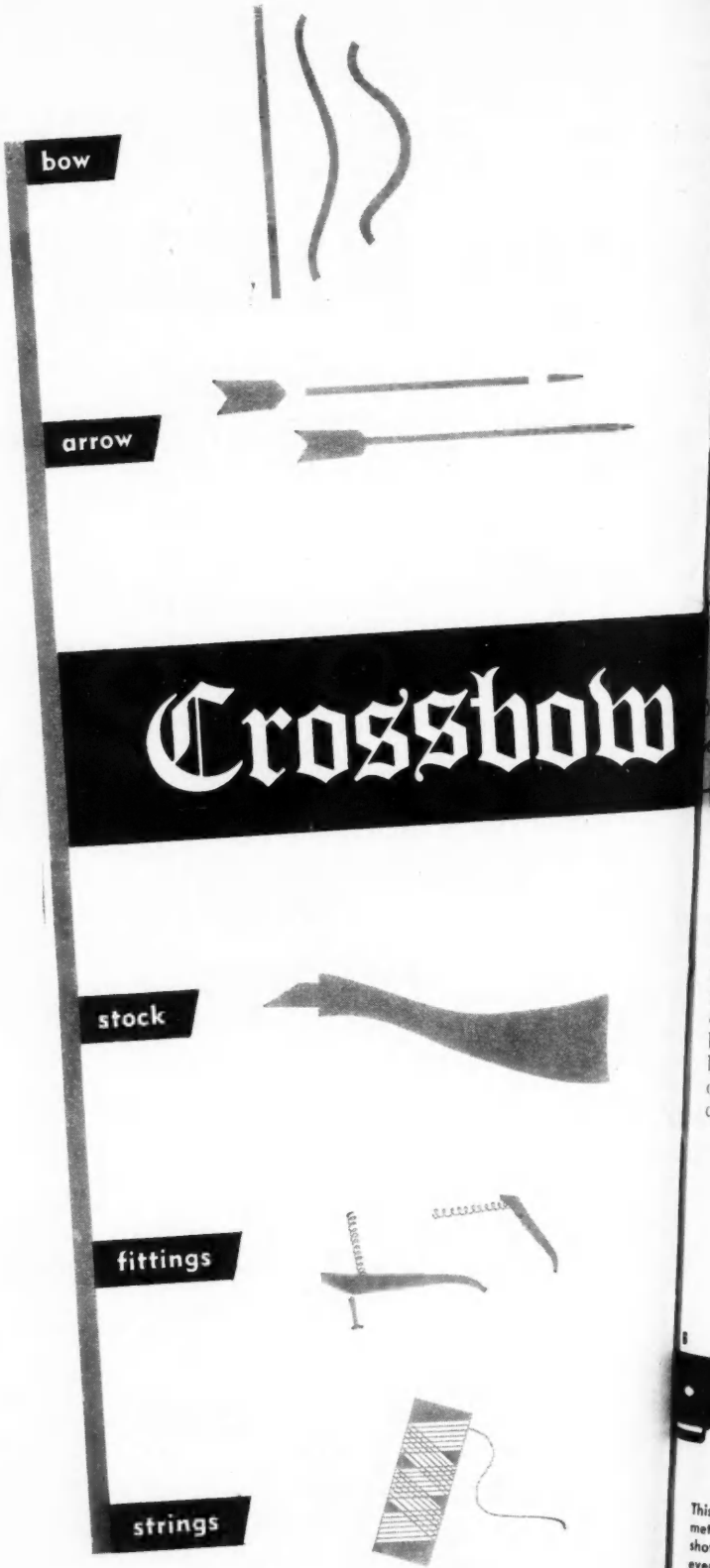
Searching for loads using lead-alloy or gas-check bullets in the .300 H&H has produced few results. Apparently lead bullets with the light loads do not perform too well in this large-capacity case. Sometimes a booster charge is used. Three to 4 grains of Pistol Powder No. 5 or No. 6 can be used with regular recommended gas-check loads for the .30-'06 to get good results. In fact, with light loads using gas-check bullets, the booster charge is to be recommended. Even 5 to 7 grains of Bulk Shotgun Smokeless has been used as a booster with 25 to 26 grains of No. 4895 or similar powder. Since these loads develop quite low pressure, some experimenting may result in a very accurate combination. Experimenting is possible by varying either the booster charge or the regular powder load. Hercules HiVel No. 2 has been used with gas-check bullets, and loads varying between 30 and 35 grains have quite frequently given reasonable performance. Naturally any regular .30 caliber gas-check bullet can be used in this cartridge.

When starting out to develop a load chances are the best bet would be to take any well-known, accurate .30-'06 load for gas-check bullets and increase the charge 5 grains. Then, by gradually going up, a reasonably accurate load can be obtained. ♦ ♦ ♦

ble 1: Velocities and Pressures for .300 H&H Magnum Loads

Load	Weight (grains)	Bullet Type	Bullet Diameter (inch)	Seating Depth (inch)	Powder Charge (grains)	Powder Type	Lot No.	Primer	Case Make	Velocity	Pressure	Remarks
1	109.8	Hornady S.P.	.3085	.22	66.0	HiVel 2	.....	Rem. 9½	Peters	3564	53,140	Good load
2	100	Kirksite A	.312	.36	68.0	3031	97	Peters 12	Peters	4036	66,020	Extreme max.
3	119	Western Alloy	.311	.45	63.0	HiVel 2	.....	Rem. 9½	Peters	3478	53,900	Near maximum
4	125	Sierra	.308	.25	65.0	3031	97	Rem. 9½	Peters	3482	54,700	Maximum load
5	150	Speer S.P.	.308	.36	62.0	4895	27277	Peters 12	Peters	3139	60,280	Extreme max.
6	149.8	Speer S.P.	.308	.36	62.0	4895	2182	Peters 12	Peters	3140	55,320	Maximum load
7	149.7	Nosler	.308	.36	62.0	4895	27277	Peters 12	Peters	3143	57,140	Maximum load
8	150	ABC S.P.	.3085	.36	61.0	HiVel 2	.....	Peters 12	Peters	3210	53,700	Good load
9	172	M1 Boattail	.308	.475	67.5	4350	20	Rem. 9½	Peters	2805	47,140	Mild load
10	180	Hi-Precision S.P.	.3085	.45	58.0	4064	52	Peters 12	Peters	2836	46,020	Accurate
11	174.8	Whitworth	.3085	.46	56.0	HiVel 2	.....	Rem. 9½	Peters	2874	48,780	Very accurate
12	180	Western B.T.	.3085	.55	67.0	4350	20	WRA 120	Western	2931	48,540	O.K.
13	179.8	Norma B.T.	.309	.55	67.0	4350	16	WRA 120	Western	2939	49,100	Very accurate
14	179.7	Nosler	.3075	.55	67.0	4350	16	WRA 120	Western	2874	47,100	Hunting load
15	222.2	Peters Belted	.3075	.60	65.0	4350	16	WRA 120	Western	2639	47,820	Hunting load
16	250	Barnes S.P.	.308	.70	60.0	4350	16	Rem. 9½	Peters	2417	46,940	Very accurate
17	154	Bond 311910 G.C.	.311	.39	31.0	Lightning	.....	WRA 115	Western	2158	.....	Fair load
18	119	Western Alloy	.311	.45	63.0	HiVel 2	.....	Peters 12	Peters	3478	53,900	Good load
19	.....	Ideal 311413 G.C.	.311	.45	25.0	4198	30	WRA 115	Western	1802	.....	Very accurate
20	154	Bond 311910	.311	.39	21.0	Unique	.....	Peters 12	Peters	2070	.....	Good load
21	120	Western Alloy	.311	.45	24.0	4759	2C	Peters 12	Peters	2160	.....	Fair load
22	220	Commercial load	.....	....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2483	39,680	Good load

Let's build a Crossbow



THIRTY DAYS may have been too long a wait between magazines . . . and probably some of those stocks look like shootin' sticks already. No harm done, except for the groove in which the arrow rests, about which a word. This groove should be ¼ inch wide by 7/16 inch deep, and may be run-in after the stock is complete by using a thin, true board fastened with screws to the side of both bow-mount and receiver. The screw holes will do no serious damage if small and later filled. Great care must be taken however that the board (acting as a straight edge) is parallel with the center line of the stock. Now, using this board as a guide against your circular saw fence, saw out the slot. (This is well to remember in case of accident to the "barrel" or groove: An insert can be mortised and glued, then another slot cut.)

When your crossbow is complete, round off the edges of this groove enough to allow the arrow (11/32-inch diameter) to center on the string. The edges of the barrel and especially the side-plates are rounded sufficiently to clear the string.

A few remarks on finishing your stock may be in order. The secret of a good finish is to have the wood perfectly prepared before any finish is applied. Fill the wood with a good varnish and sand *all* the varnish off: repeat until the stock is glass smooth. Then keep a small bottle of equal parts linseed, turpentine, and vinegar to rub the wood down with and polish off. Groove and mortises should be varnished.

CONCLUSION

orge M. Stevens

Your RIFLEMAN of January 1949 has a nice article on carving. If carving would be appropriate on any weapon it should be on a crossbow. The medieval sporting bows were richly ornamented. Even a simple inlay or two on the stock adds atmosphere, and a little designing of the side-plates helps.

HARDWARE: The photos and drawings of the bow-mount and lock should be clear enough to enable you to construct them without trouble. The lock, trigger, guard, and safety are all made from ⅛-inch strap iron and should be placed in position on the outside of the stock and looked over well before drilling for the pins. The "fingers" for the string should not be wider than ¼ inch . . . the whole nut only ¾ inch or less . . . as a greater length of string suddenly straightening out under the high tension on release will almost certainly cause disturbance. This is the same lock as shown last month, only made of iron. Its simplicity should recommend it and no elaborate tools are called for.

THE BOW: There is nothing difficult about making the bow. You have lots of time and that is *the main element*. There is no metal as beautiful as steel, and no form more graceful than the recurved (Cupid's) bow.

Your car spring is a really fine piece of metal. It may be cut with a high-speed hacksaw blade, or you may have it cut with a torch. In the latter case leave a little extra to be ground off. Use a pretty coarse stone wheel as you have a lot of grinding to do. The finishing can come later. It is not advisable to wear gloves around power machinery of any kind, but your bow will be too warm to handle without protection. Glasses *must* be worn. To avoid any chance of burning your bow, take about four slow strokes and then change to the other limb. Get a good grip on the work and be positive in your action. Avoid letting the wheel dig in at the edge of a stroke. By the time you get the bow to accurate rectangular dimensions and start shaping, you will find you have the hang of it.

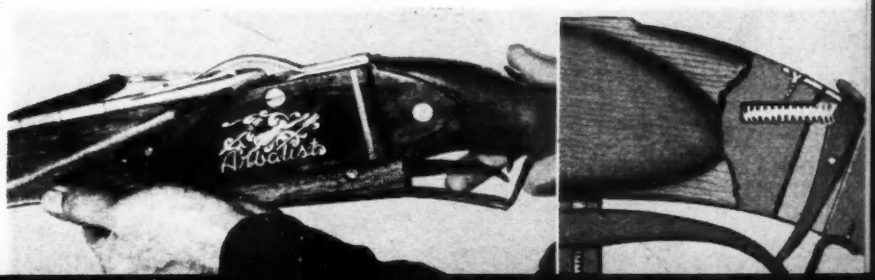
Metal has this advantage over wood in making a bow: You can go almost entirely by measurement, and if as suggested you work the same number of strokes on each side you will find little adjustment necessary for final balance.

When you have your bow to the rectangular dimensions given (checking to see that both limbs are identical), grind the string notches (nocks) with shoulders ½ inch from tips. Then have the tips curved as shown or do it yourself. It is more important that the curves are similar than that any particular radius be observed. As the horn on an anvil is tapered, care must be taken not to throw the tips out of alignment. They should be heated red hot, back about five inches, but not hotter than a bright red. Check the curves and alignment by eye measure to see that they are the same distance from the center. Slight adjustments may be made by cold hammering, but don't overdo it.

Air cool your bow. A car spring will kink before it will break. Do not attempt to add temper. Use a new leaf; a used spring may be crystalised, and should one of these snap in use, serious injury could result.

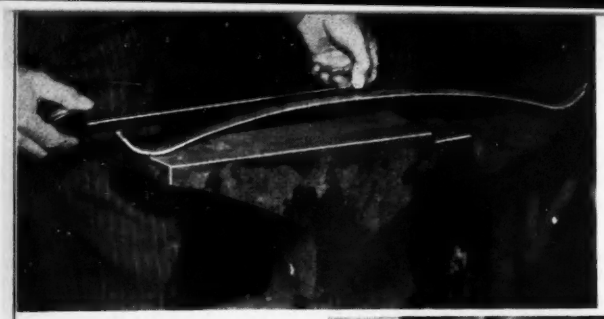
We have pointed out that the car spring appears ideal for a bow, so far as metal and temper go. It has a hole in the center, which because it's there, we are using for fastening to the stock. This hole weakens the very spot that seems to receive the greatest strain and extra metal must be left below it to strengthen it at this point. This *(Continued on page 43)*

Hardware: A) is the tie-bolt assembl The length of half-inch rod is drilled ar tapped for a 5/16-inch bolt. B) serv as a washer against which to tighten th tie-bolt and carries a sling slot. should be ⅛ in. or more thick. C) is rubber pad (truck inner tube) which go between B and the back of bow. D) a very simple and easily-made nut. Th tube is brazed on and must be at an a curate right angle. E) is the trippir bar. Note slight notch for safety cat at trigger end. F) is the trigger gua with screw for trigger adjustment. G) the safety lever. Not the little bra plate to cover top of the mortise. Th sling swivel is best purchased with stra

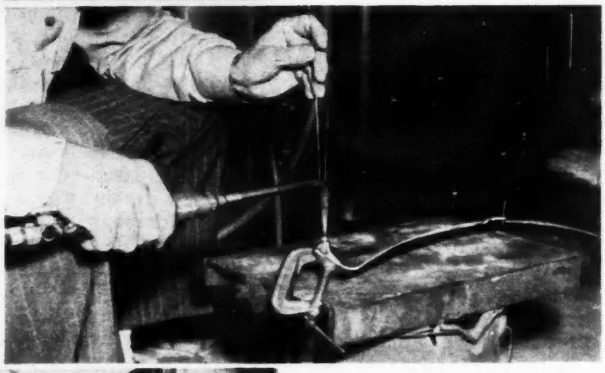


This "hold-down" clip (right) is the usual method of holding the arrow for angle shots. It has several disadvantages, however, and we recommend using a pair of small magnets under the steel point of the arrow. Also shown is the recommended safety, which must be thumbed forward to fire and is always 'on.' Note that this automatically makes for a squeeze trigger release. Far right, cutaway view shows installation of safety and adjustment screw for the trigger

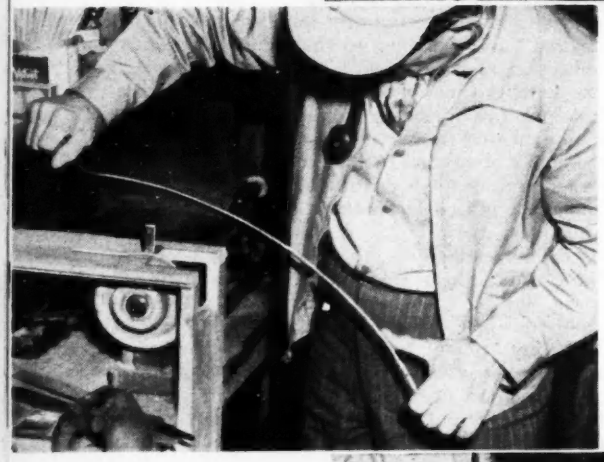
LET'S MAKE A CROSSBOW (Cont'd)



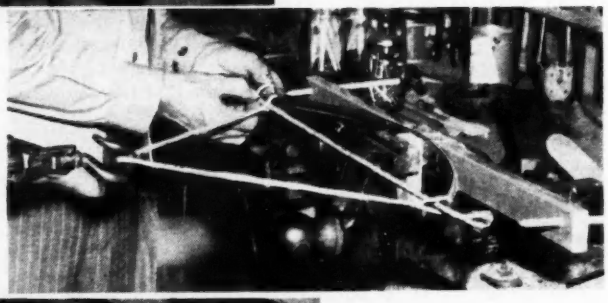
In re-curving the ends of the bow, check carefully to see that the tips are equidistant from the center. Extreme end of tip is not bent (see drawing) or your nocks will be too pinched



The tips are held in place with a small clamp and brazed on. The shoulders should be well built up and the "nock" filled with enough metal so that by using a ¼ inch rat-tail file good smooth nocks will result. The least roughness will cut the string

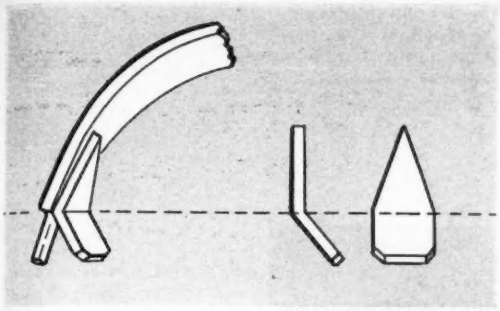


A small right-angle corner brace is set first on one side and then the other of a narrow gumming wheel, as a 'fence' to guide the edge of the bow. It should be close enough to keep the groove about 1/16 inch from the edge of the bow. Run grooves all the way to the nocks, and use a stop to keep the grooves the same length



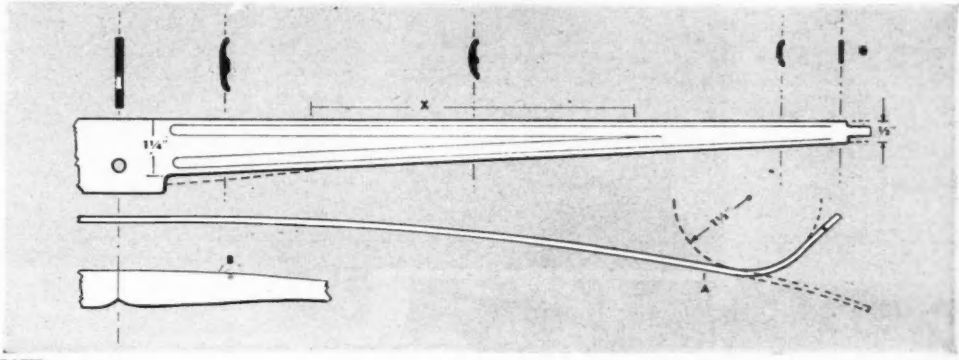
The important thing to remember in stringing any bow is that both tips must be bent the same amount. Working alone I use a false string as shown, somewhat longer than the regular string. Do not bend the bow farther than necessary

Checking the bow-tips for identical travel. Note the pointers which mark the position of tips at 'brace'. The power must be applied from a position perfectly centered on the bow. The scales are 200-pound capacity

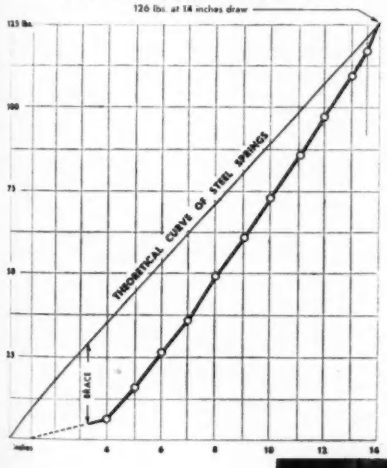


The bow tips are cut from ⅛ by ¾-inch strap iron, bent and assembled as shown

You should have the bow ground down to approximately the silhouettes shown before trying to string. The over-all length of 30 inches should be exact, 15 inches from center to each tip. The area designated by X will need slightly more grinding. Bows that have 'failed' have done so at the center and at A. A narrow spring leaf will bring the hole higher up which is desirable. B shows the center section of an ancient bow

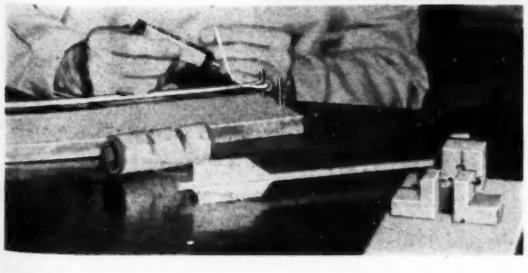


CURVE OF STEEL BOW ILLUSTRATED

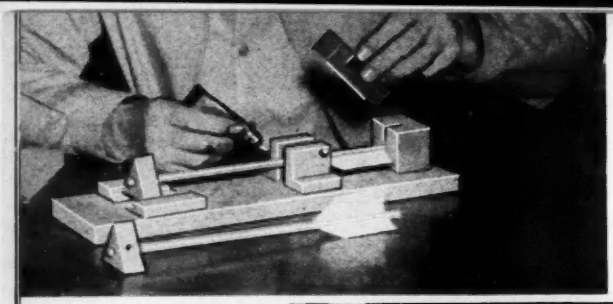


While bows are figured on a basis of input of work, it is only reasonable to suppose that output will be approximately in proportion. Different designs and material vary considerably in this relation, and tax the bowyers ingenuity to get efficiency. The graph (left) shows a great increase in stress in the last half inch of draw, when the bow has about reached its breakdown point. Use this graph as a general guide in tillering your bow. With a bastard string (three inches longer than final string) placed in the nocks, it will take about 35 pounds to bring the tips to "brace". The tips themselves travel about 4 inches from brace to full draw which should be 13½ inches

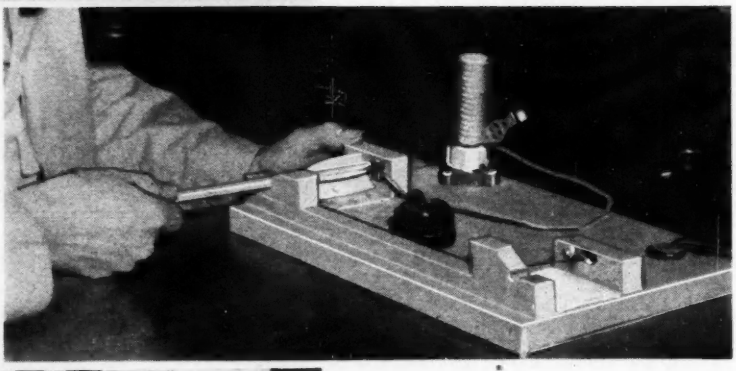
After the center section of the bow string is 'served', the string is looped over the two end pegs and the space between the pegs is served. The winding flax is not fastened but is to continue the winding after 'eye' is made



Having served the length between end pegs, the "eye" is formed by stretching over a single peg and serving is continued over all the strands for about two inches and secured. A section in the center of the string is also served

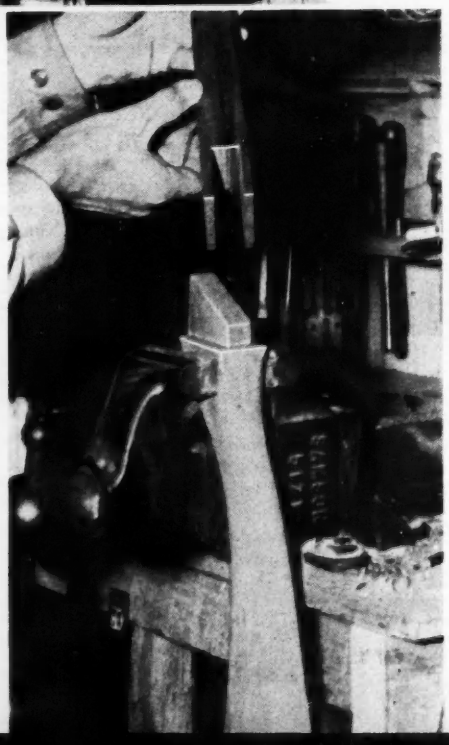


A fletching jig is necessary in order to place feathers on the shaft accurately. Like the stock, working drawings should be made before building. You have the length and diameter of the shaft to start with

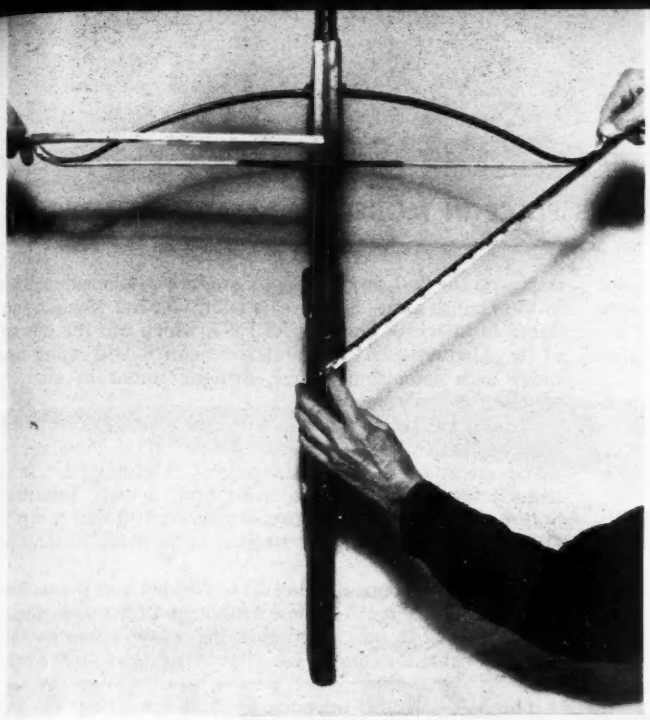


The burning wire is in direct circuit with the heating element. Ordinary electrical precautions are taken, of course. This jig has two burners for different size fletchings. The wiring is out of the way underneath, excepting the lead used as a reostat to regulate the temperature of the burning wire. The arrow butt goes into a hole with a depth stop, for accuracy

A thin board for a straightedge, secured to the 'barrel', is carefully adjusted until parallel with a center-line for running the groove after stock is complete, or for repair in case of damage. The two stocks on wall were experimental (high comb) long-range target bows



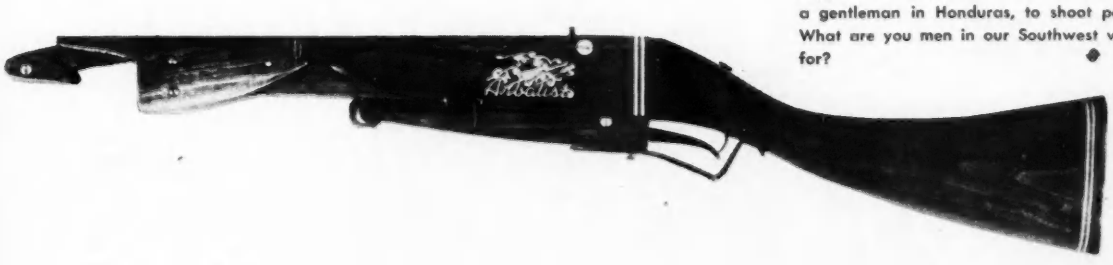
By making the stock and barrel portions separately the mortising for the lock can be made, thus assuring perfectly straight cut surfaces. Side plates over this joint are not essential but help stiffen it and if thin will add to the bow's appearance



Theoretically the two bow tips must be the same distance from the groove. They must also be equidistant from the nut. The string center must travel a straight line. No groove is going to hold the arrow against the strength of that string. Also look at the leverage these forces have, compared with the narrow confine in a rifle

Many different ways were evolved for spanning the medieval bows. Since ours are relatively light, the foot stirrup is probably the most practical. While this was usually a permanent fixture, ours are made detachable to relieve the forward weight

Your finished stock need not be the same design as shown. This is, however, the outgrowth of many different trials, and offers a combination of ease in making, good appearance, and proper proportions for use. Walnut is much easier worked than is generally supposed. This particular stock was made for a gentleman in Honduras, to shoot peccary. What are you men in our Southwest waiting for?



A TIMELY AND UP-TO-DATE DISCUSSION OF THE MILITARY SEMIAUTOMATIC RIFLE AND ITS PLACE IN MODERN WARFARE

ACCORD THE bolt-action rifle a roll of drums and a sincere salute as it takes its place in military history! The rigors of highly mechanized World War II proved the value of the semiautomatic rifle and it is now the standard infantry weapon for the world's armies.

The semiautomatic rifle should not be construed as a technical creation of World War II. Actually, the semiautomatic (or "self-loader" as it is designated abroad) existed before the advent of the machine gun which, to be correct, should be remembered as the offspring of the semiautomatic rifle.

The basic designs of the world-renowned Madsen, Browning M1917, and Maxim machine guns were first conceived by their respective inventors as semiautomatic, self-loading rifles which utilized the energy or recoil of the discharge to expel the fired cartridge case and reload a live round from the magazine automatically.

To General Madsen, inventor of the Madsen machine gun, must go the credit for visualizing and seeing through the production of the first military semiautomatic rifle. In 1884, General Madsen, then a Captain in the Danish Army attached to the Royal Arsenal at Copenhagen, submitted a semiautomatic rifle for entry in the Danish Government trials being conducted to consider the adoption of a repeating rifle. The Danes were, at that time, armed with the single-shot rolling-block Remington rifle. The hurriedly developed and assembled model of the Madsen rifle failed to pass the strenuous tests, and the bolt-action Krag-Jorgensen was officially adopted as the Danish arm. Some years later, General Madsen introduced his machine gun, Model 1895, which was the offspring of the Madsen rifle. This machine gun is still being made today with astonishingly few changes, minor in character, affecting basic design.

Mexico was the first nation to adopt a semiautomatic rifle. This was in 1908 and the rifle was the 7-mm. Mondragon, a development of the Mexican general, Mondragon. It was manufactured by the Swiss Arms firm, Societé Industrielle Suisse of Neuhausen, and it set a precedent in that it was the first military semiautomatic weapon to be made in mass production.

Because of a political upheaval in Mexico and the outbreak of World War I in 1914, these Mondragon rifles were diverted to Germany. It was found that the weapon was not sufficiently reliable for combat use after actual tests on the battlefield.

The Mondragon is operated by gas tapped from the barrel near the muzzle and is actuated from below by a piston located beneath the barrel. The Mondragon, being of simple and effective design, became the basis of many later developments. If the gas take-off on the Mondragon were modified it would, undoubtedly, be possible to eliminate its excessive carburizing and brusque action so that it would compare favorably with the best of present-day semiautomatics.

Neuhausen self-loading rifle SK 46. Note similarity to Swiss M31 bolt-action rifle

The Czech ZK 420. This is a design of Zbrojovka Brno, noted for its Bren gun

MILITARY SEMIAUTOS

By William Piznak

The only semiautomatic rifle used extensively in World War I was the French M1917, also called the 'St. Etienne'. The St. Etienne was very unwieldy and heavy. The poorly designed gas system caused a violent reaction which wrought havoc with the weapon and it was understandable that the French Army discontinued its use at the termination of World War I.

At the outset of World War II only two of the warring powers entered the fracas with semiautomatic rifles. These were the United States (armed with the Garand) and Soviet Russia (armed with the Tokarev). Both weapons are gas operated.

It is ironical that during the early developmental stages of the semiautomatics inventors believed the gas system had little merit and abandoned it in favor of other mechanical systems. The gas system has since proved to be the most reliable method of operation to date.

In such weapons as the Garand and Mondragon, gas is tapped from the barrel near the muzzle and is transmitted into a tube located underneath the barrel where a piston rod and return spring are contained. After the cartridge is fired, the expanding gases go through the gasport in the barrel and force the piston rod rearward; this action unlocks the breechblock or bolt, drives it rearward, ejects the fired cartridge, and cocks the firing mechanism. When maximum rearward bolt travel is reached, the compressed return spring forces the bolt and piston rod forward to their original positions; simultaneously, a loaded cartridge is removed from the magazine and chambered, preparing the weapon for refiring. The principal drawback of the early gas-operated semiautomatic was the tendency of the weapon to jam because of the inevitable clogging of the gasport with combustion residues from the exploded cartridge primer and powder.

The process of clearing a gasport jam was arduous because the gasport was inaccessible unless the weapon was completely disassembled and this could be accomplished only with the aid of armorer's tools and facilities. Suffice it to say that these conditions made the early gas-operated semiautomatic rifle impractical for military purposes.

Another fault of the early gas-operated arm lay in the violent action, a direct result of poorly regulated flow of gas which actuated the piston.

The success of the Browning M1917, Maxim, and Vickers machine guns, known for their reliability under the most adverse conditions, popularized the short-recoil system. Ordnance engineers looked to the short-recoil system for the solution of problems peculiar to the semiautomatic rifle.

In the short-recoil system the barrel, upon recoil, moves rearward for approximately one inch, unlocking the bolt which travels backward to extract and eject the fired case, and to cock the firing mechanism. When maximum rearward bolt movement is reached, a compressed mainspring returns the bolt and barrel in battery or normal forward position; at the same time, a loaded cartridge is removed from the magazine and chambered. While the short-recoil system worked admirably for machine guns, it presented perplexing problems when restricted to the narrow confines of the semiautomatic rifle. The breech mechanism of a machine gun is sturdy, and bulk is not considered a criterion. On the other hand, balance, handiness, and length are primary considerations in designing military semiautomatics.

The use of short-recoil systems in semiautomatic rifles resulted in long, complicated, unwieldy, heavy, and, surprisingly, fragile weapons. Other systems were tried—long recoil, blowback, delayed or retarded blowback, primer actuated, and combinations of these. None of these systems effected the desired practicality.

After exhausting the possibilities of other systems, designers reconsidered the gas system. Modern metallurgy, chemistry, and production know-how conquered the major objections to the gas system and by employing high-alloy steels, hard chromeplating of the gasport and cylinder, and using modern priming compositions and powders, fouling of the gasport was minimized. Designing the gasport for easy accessibility in field cleaning (as in the Garand) has all but eliminated the danger of gasport clogging and resultant jamming of the gun.

Although the Russians modestly admit responsibility for creating thousands of inventions hitherto accredited to less modest individuals of other nations, it must, in all seriousness, be acknowledged that the Russians first recognized, understood, and solved the problems of the gas system for the semiautomatic rifle.

For many years, ordnance engineers believed that gas acted upon the piston rod in a gradual pushing effect, and believed that as the gases expanded, the pressures increased. Actually, gas acts upon the piston with a hammer-like blow, thus eliminating the need for long gas cylinders as employed in the Garand and Mondragon.

In the Russian gas system, typified by the Tokarev, gas is tapped from the barrel near the muzzle and passes through the gasport and fixed cylinder located on top of the barrel. The gas forces back a moveable cylinder which fits over the fixed piston. Attached to the moveable cylinder is a long tappet rod, about 3/16 inch in diameter, the rear of which goes through a hole in the top of the receiver, directly in line with the face of the bolt carrier and above the bolt head. When the gas forces the moveable cylinder and tappet rod back about 1½ inches, the tappet rod strikes a blow against the bolt carrier which moves rearward, camming up the rear end of the bolt. (The rear end of the bolt tilts downward when locked in position and bears against a crosspiece in the receiver.) Bolt and bolt carrier continue rearward together, extracting the fired cartridge case. The bolt return spring brings the carrier and bolt back to their forward locked positions. This action results in removal of a loaded round from the magazine for chambering.

The piston rod is an independent unit and is not connected to the bolt. This arrangement permits the piston rod to act in a straight line; it is not bent around the magazine as in the Garand, and the gas action is considerably milder than with other gas systems.

The merits of the Russian system—simple design and easy manufacture—were quickly perceived and formed the pattern for many later semiautomatic rifle developments. The Germans adopted the Russian gas system for their K-43 semiautomatic rifle. In the K-43 gas is tapped from the middle of the barrel which permits a more compact gas system.

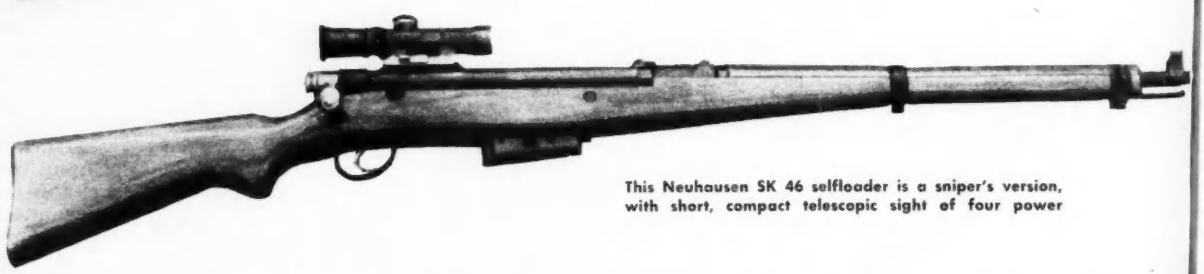
Yugoslavia is, at present, manufacturing the Tokarev. Now that the friendship between Tito and Stalin appears on the rocks, it will be interesting to see whether the Yugoslav Tokarev, like so many other Russian things, will be purged.

The Belgian Fabrique Nationale gas-operated semiautomatic rifle is an example of a well-planned and cleverly executed design. Danger of fouling in the gas system has been lessened by chromeplating the piston rod and gas tube. After hitting the piston, the gas escapes outward through two portholes opposite each other in the gas cylinder. The gas itself acts as a cleanser of the resultant combustion residues of the previous shot. The gas cylinder can be readily cleared by a cleaning rod after stripping off the gas plug and piston rod.

Another excellent feature of the Fabrique Nationale model which should be incorporated in all semiautomatic rifles is an indicator which extends below the trigger guard when the weapon is cocked. By feel alone the shooter can tell whether his weapon is cocked and ready.

Mexico was the first nation to adopt a semiautomatic. The Mondragon (above, in section) was adopted in 1908

Russia's Tokarev, which shared honors with our Garand as only semiauto used in World War II, is gas operated



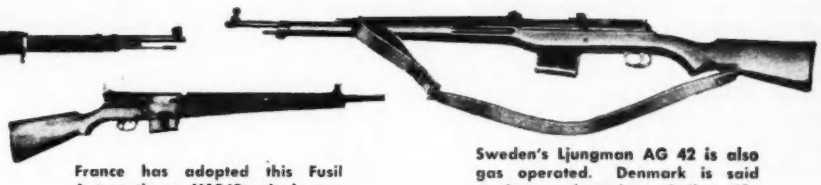
This Neuhausen SK 46 selfloader is a sniper's version, with short, compact telescopic sight of four power

The rifle stock design is unique in military history. All shooters are acquainted with the upswing of the rifle muzzle upon firing caused by the butt of the stock resting against the shoulder and acting as an axis since it is below the barrel and line of recoil. The force of recoil causes the weapon to revolve about its axis and the result is the painful upward muzzle flip.

Placing the gas cylinder on top of the barrel permitted Fabrique Nationale designers to move the buttstock line higher and in direct line of recoil, considerably lessening the upswing of the muzzle upon firing. This is vitally important since the primary purpose of the semiautomatic rifle is to deliver the greatest possible number of shots at the target, and particularly at moving targets. The semiautomatic rifle cannot be utilized to full advantage when the upswing of the muzzle disturbs the line of fire and obscures the target. Operation of the bolt mechanism is similar to the Tokarev.

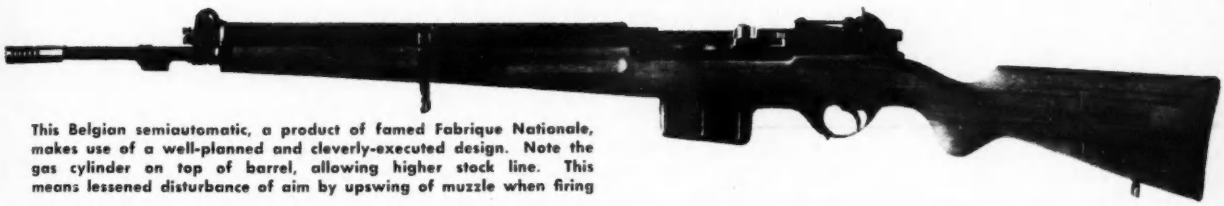
Sweden adopted the design of one of its engineers named Ljungman. His model is known as Halvautomatiskt Gev

Finland's Pelo rifle is recoil-operated, 7.62-mm caliber, and uses standard cartridge clips



France has adopted this Fusil Automatique, M1949. It is gas operated, uses 7.5 mm cartridge

Sweden's Ljungman AG 42 is also gas operated. Denmark is said to have adopted a similar rifle



This Belgian semiautomatic, a product of famed Fabrique Nationale, makes use of a well-planned and cleverly-executed design. Note the gas cylinder on top of barrel, allowing higher stock line. This means lessened disturbance of aim by upswing of muzzle when firing

AG 42. The AG 42 is produced for Sweden by the famous Madsen firm in Denmark. Its gas system, consisting solely of a gas tube and gasport, is the epitome of simplicity. The barrel has a built-in muzzle brake with vents in back of the front sight.

When a cartridge is fired, some gas escapes through an orifice in the top of the barrel approximately one-third of its length from the muzzle and then exits through the gasport into the gas tube, extending through the top of the receiver. The gas coursing through the tube strikes a hammerlike blow against the bolt cover which unlocks the bolt and, together, they move backward. The bolt cover face and end of the gas tube fit together in a cuplike form. Mechanics of the bolt operation resemble those of the Tokarev.

The Madsen Company improved the Swedish Ljungman AG 42, and has introduced its own version called the Madsen M1949 which the Danish Army is said to be adopting. The Madsen is much handier and more compact than its predecessor, the AG 42.

The Madsen taps gas from the middle of the barrel. The gas tube is wound around the barrel four times, equalling in length a straight gas tube used to take off gas from the barrel near the muzzle, as in the AG 42. A gas tube in wound form delays the opening of the breech until chamber pressure falls almost to zero. Naturally, the longer the gas tube, the lower the chamber pressure upon opening.

The most delicate phase in the automatic cycle is the extraction of the empty case from the chamber. The greater the chamber pressure, the greater the adhesion of the cartridge case to the chamber walls and, therefore, the more difficult the extraction. Present-day ammunition is too thin walled and thin headed to stand power extraction. Fortunate indeed will be the army which has a new cartridge designed exclusively for its semiautomatic rifle that will withstand the strains and stresses imposed by automatic operation.

While on the subject of ammunition, it is timely to comment on the quality procurable during time of war. In times of peace, ammunition is produced by comparatively few factories and tolerances are rigidly observed. But during a war ammunition consumption is enormous, with many more factories in production. Unfortunately, tolerances fall. Tools wear out, and the quality of rifle ammunition deteriorates. This was substantiated in World War II.

In former days it was the practice to furnish the first grades of ammunition to the air force gunners, second grades to the infantry machine gunner, and third grades to the infantryman. However, the semiautomatic rifle used by the infantryman is susceptible to variations in ammunition, and does not have the strength of operation to chew up poor grades of ammunition as does the bolt-action rifle.

Today the semiautomatic rifleman is a versatile fighting man; he is really a self-contained, independent fighting unit. The infantryman takes the offensive or defensive as circumstances dictate—and is no longer secondary in role to the machine gunner. Subsequently, it is essential that the infantryman be provided with ammunition that is consistently high in quality. A jam in the semiautomatic rifleman's gun can be just as disastrous to him as a jam can be to the machine gunner.

While United States ammunition was within acceptable standards for semiautomatic rifle use during the recent war, Soviet Russia's small-arms ammunition was particularly poor. As a result the performance of the Tokarev suffered, which made the Red riflemen prefer to use their obsolete Nagant bolt-action rifle. It has been reported that the Tokarev has been withdrawn from field use in the Soviet Army and is used only on parades to impress foreign military observers.

The Swiss SK 46, invented and produced by the Neuhausen Arms Company of that country, is a gas-operated semiautomatic rifle very much like the Swiss service bolt-action rifle, M31, in appearance. The gas system is extremely short and has little if any effect on barrel accuracy. In longer gas systems where gas is tapped near the muzzle, the barrel is affected by the reverberation caused by gas pressure on the piston rod and its components. An advantage of the short gas system is the smaller gas intake required because of the higher pressure at the intake point. In addition, the higher gas temperatures cause less fouling.

The Swiss designed the SK 46 to equal or surpass their very accurate M31 bolt-action service rifle. The SK 46 is reputed to be the most accurate semiautomatic rifle in existence today. To increase its effectiveness, a short, compact four-power scope and mount were fitted to the rifle. The scope base is an integral part of the receiver. In the hands of competent marksmen, the SK 46 is a deadly weapon up to 1,000 yards. It would be wise for the United States to follow the Swiss example and not overlook the benefits to be derived from a scope-sighted semiautomatic rifle.

In the SK 46, gas is taken from the barrel about eight inches from the magazine by a gas tube which leads into a cylindrical gas chamber on the side of the receiver. In the cylinder is a one-piece piston with a bolt latch which is kicked backwards with considerable force by the gas pressure, unlocking the bolt. By the rearward motion of the bolt latch, which carries the pawl and bolt-opening cams, the firing pin is retracted and set. The bolt continues along its maximum rearward travel, ejecting the fired case. The compressed return spring forces the bolt forward, chambering a loaded cartridge which has

been withdrawn from the magazine. The SK 46 bolt is also of one piece, of the tilt-up type, locking at the rear against a recess in the receiver.

The Czech's new gas-operated semiautomatic rifle, designated as the ZK 420, was designed and manufactured by Zbrojovka Brno, noted for its Bren gun. The lines of the ZK 420 are strikingly similar to those of the Garand. Gas cylinder and piston are located beneath the barrel and gas is tapped from the barrel about one-third of the way from the muzzle. The breechblock swivels within a small angle, locking the weapon by means of two projections close behind the chamber. Unlocking of the breech is accomplished by the piston extension turning the bolt and carrying it to the rear.

For unknown reasons, the tangent-type leaf sight is calibrated from 300 to 2,000 meters. Intelligence gained from World War I indicated that the practical range of a military rifle equipped with a leaf-type rear sight is from 100 to 500 yards. Beyond 300 yards, it is exceedingly difficult for the average rifleman to hit a man-sized target because the leaf sights block out the target at that distance. The Danish Madsen M1949 leaf sight is sensibly calibrated from 100 to 500 meters.

Because of typical French thrift, the armies of France marched against the Nazis during World War II equipped with thirteen versions or modifications of the obsolete Lebel in 8-mm. and 7.5-mm. caliber, as well as an entirely new bolt-action rifle, Fusil 1936, in 7.5-mm. caliber. French troops at the front, armed with 8-mm. rifles, were often issued 7.5-mm. ammunition, and those with the 7.5 mm. were frequently given 8-mm. cartridges. Chaotic supply contributed its share to the downfall of France.

With the bitter lessons of the recent war still fresh in their minds, the French have set about standardizing and revamping their military armament. They do not intend to remain idle while other armies are being equipped with modern small arms. The 8-mm. Lebel cartridge has been discontinued, and the modern rimless 7.5-mm. cartridge, M1929C, has been adopted. They have also adopted the gas-operated Fusil Automatique, M1949, in 7.5-mm. caliber. There is a strong resemblance between it and their bolt-action rifle, the Fusil M36. Were it not for the 10-shot box magazine extending beneath the rifle, the M1949 might easily be mistaken for the M36.

The passing of the bolt-action repeating rifle from the military scene does not necessarily indicate that the present-day semiautomatic rifle is perfect. Far from it. The semiautomatic has only arrived at the threshold of its development and potential greatness.

Present-day semiautomatic rifles have one fault in common: they are too heavy. When equipped with bayonet and sling, they average about 11½ pounds. This is about four pounds heavier than the seven pounds contended by military experts to be ideal.

Much excess weight could be eliminated by throwing tradition out the window. The classic example is the bayonet, which has lost its significance in modern warfare. The Japanese, who were enthusiastic exponents of the bayonet, realized this—but too late. Because of tradition, military authorities demand the bayonet, even on the semiautomatic. Discarding the obsolete bayonet would reduce one pound of the rifle's weight and eliminate the need for the long forearm, hand guard, and heavy steel fore-end cap (to which the bayonet is fastened), thus saving approximately three-quarters of a pound more.

The use of such lightweight, non-ferrous alloys as manganese and dural with tensile strengths equivalent to that of steel in the buttplate, trigger guard, sights, swivels, and other metal fittings, would save at least half a pound.

Stocks for semiautomatic rifles are deliberately made heavier and bulkier than those for bolt-action rifles in order to accommodate the larger mechanism. By using lighter laminated wood stocks of greater strength (with the added advantage of not warping), bulk could be reduced another three or four ounces.

Rejecting the heavy, complicated sling strap as used on the Garand and replacing it with a more practical and lighter sling in one piece of the quickly adjustable type, would save about three ounces.

We, who have cherished the bolt-action rifle for military shooting purposes, may have felt a twinge of regret to learn that it has been supplanted by the semiautomatic rifle. Still, in this age of miracles, it may not be long before even our highly perfected model of the semiautomatic rifle will be forced to abdicate in favor of a more effective weapon.

VITAL STATISTICS OF TEN MILITARY SEMIAUTOMATICS:

Model	*Overall Length (inches)*	*Weight (pounds)*	*Caliber*	*Magazine Capacity (rounds)*	*Length of Barrel (inches)*	*Type of Operation*
U. S. Garand M1	43.6	9.5	.30	8	24	Gas, turning bolt
Swiss Neuhausen—Model 1946	43.897	9.92	7.5 mm.	12	23.228	Gas, up tilting bolt
Swedish Ljungman—Model AG 42	47.913	9.7	6.5 mm.	10	25.078	Gas, down tilting bolt
Danish Madsen—M1949 (Ljungman)	45.669	9.92	7.62 mm.	10	22.834	Gas, down tilting bolt
Finnish Pelo	45.275	9.259	7.62 mm.	10	23.622	Recoil
Belgian Fabrique Nationale—Model 1946	44.488	9.038	7.65 mm.	10	23.228	Gas, down tilting bolt
Czech Brno—Model ZK 420	41.732	10.582	7.92 mm.	10	21.653	Gas, forward turning bolt
Russian Tokarev—Model 1940	47.78	8.8	7.62 mm.	10	24.38	Gas, down tilting bolt
German—Model 1943	44.5	8.9	7.92 mm.	10	22.	Gas, 2 retractable lugs on bolt
French—M1949	42.52	8.9	7.5 mm.	10	22.	Gas

Please report changes of address direct to the National Rifle Association, allowing five weeks before change is to take effect. Be sure to send your old address, preferably an address label from the RIFLEMAN, together with new address. Make sure of getting your RIFLEMAN promptly each month by notifying the NRA direct, in advance of change. Send new address to the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, Washington 6, D. C.

Let's Make a CROSSBOW

Continued from page 37

is still not enough, and is why we do all the grinding on the limbs . . . that and efficiency. (The several days spent making a good bow will pay off with a lifetime of shooting, and pride!)

The medieval bow was very thick through the center—in fact some were such "bars of iron" as to make the observer wonder how they were bent at all. Actually the tips moved only a couple of inches. This, compared to our bow, is a little like black versus smokeless powder, isn't it!

Using a little thinner leaf, a reasonably good bow can be made without much grinding if you leave more metal near the handle as shown by dotted lines in the drawing. The re-curve however is a must, otherwise the kick is severe and the bow becomes unpleasant to shoot. This was avoided on the old crossbows by a gradual taper to the tops—and probably a very carefully studied one.

In grinding the bow, first take off the back corners at about 45 degrees, then start rounding the back to the cross-sections shown on the drawing. For hollowing out the belly use about a 5/16 or 3/8 inch "gumming" wheel. A simple jig set up over your grinder to guide bow edges is shown in the photos. As mentioned above, count the strokes. Each groove will take about 25 to 30 runs over the stone (slow, positive, cutting strokes).

TIPS: Making, assembling and brazing on the bow tips is fully illustrated. They should be put on as soon as you are satisfied with your re-curve job.

THE STRING: You will need a string to complete the final tillering of the bow. This is made of No. 6 Barbour's Linen thread, obtainable at your shoe-repair shop. It will take between 26 and 36 strands (13 to 18 loops), depending upon the power of the bow. On a three or four foot narrow board set two pegs (short lengths of 10 penny nails), at one end of the board; the space between them to be 1¾ inches. Down the board, centered on these pegs and 29¼ inches from them, place a third peg. The string is looped over *one* of the end pegs and the single peg. This is the overall length of the string. The coils should be rather tight and the final knot made at the peg. Mark the exact center and "serve" a center section of about 4 inches. If unfamiliar with serving a line, see an archery, Boy Scout, or sailing handbook.

Use model cement while serving and be sure ends are secure. Before removing loops from the pegs, tie one half with a piece of string so if an accident occurs you won't lose the loops. One end is looped over the two end pegs and stretched tight. The space between the pegs is then served. In serving, start with a length of the flax long enough, about 5 feet. It is then stretched over only one peg and serving is continued over both halves, similar to center section. Repeat with the other end. Dip ends and center in hot parafine. Use only parafine on the string as beeswax or other preparations are apt to be sticky. A few twists in the string are desirable and will be seen to shorten the length. Twists are added or reduced to bring the normal position of the strung bow (measured from the string center to the bow) to 3⅜ inches.

TILLERING: When you are satisfied that you have the bow sufficiently ground to match the drawings and photos, start tillering. Efficiency here will have to be an assumption. We will assume that we are after a nearly true arc, with the center a little flat. Also the arc is to be flat just as it enters the re-curve (A). The re-curve should "spring" some . . . what is known as a working re-curve. Thus our entire bow (differing from a longbow) works . . . produces energy for us. This of course is as seen at fulldraw.

The two bow tips must travel (by measure; see photo) the same distance at all points, including full draw. *Important:* You must not draw over 100 pounds *until* the 100 pound station is at least 10¾ inches, measured from the scale hook to the bow. The steel bow may look practically indestructible, but it is critical at above draw. You will play safer to work for 100 pounds at 11 inches and still have too powerful a bow. Actually 100 pounds final weight is to be recommended. It isn't the stoutest bow that counts, so much as *practice*, and being able to place your shots.

You must at this point (10- to 11-inch draw) start watching the curve the limbs form, grinding off to compensate for what appears to be weakness. Get rid of what weight you can up inside the curve around the nock. It must not be too narrow however at the re-curve or the string may slip over the edge. A small diameter wheel, perhaps a wornout one, would help. But you can do a lot using the edge of your stone.

Without getting involved, maybe you can see the picture a little clearer if I point out that the weight you are putting on the string at the bow tips isn't going to take a whole lot of steel to hold, but every inch you move in from the tips toward the center is *leverage*, so it must be stronger proportionately and especially at the center. The severe strain in shooting of course comes as the string pulls-up against the inertia of the traveling arms.

ARROWS: Order one dozen matched Port Oxford cedar shafts, 28 inches long by 11/32 inch diameter. Request *both* ends be tapered for hunting tips, or milled for field tips, whichever you decide to order. I suggest you get both. Explain you wish to make crossbow bolts and will cut them in two.

The full-length feather, base ground, will usually fletch one arrow. You should specify either right- or left-wing feathers. The commonly used barred feather is nature's own camouflage and as usual she has done a good job. The visibility of white or, better, yellow feathers will be well worth the slight additional cost. Marking the spot where your arrow lit at the same time you are watching game is an art, and that little flash of yellow way over yonder, where you were sure it couldn't have gone, will save an arrow. And even if you find arrowmaking a delightful recreation (which it is) the tips cost money.

You will need a fletching jig. The better jigs cost around $8.00 and up, so I am showing a simple but accurate homemade jig. The feathers are spaced apart equally (120 degrees) by the little equilateral triangle which slips over the "tip" end of the shaft and is tightened down with a screw to prevent slipping. The butt end of the shaft fits into a hole drilled about ½ inch deep in a hardwood block which is centered with a ½ inch deep vertical saw-cut. This saw-cut positions the feather for gluing. The length of feather (3⅛ inch long) is placed between two metal plates (3½ X ¾ X 1/32 inches thick) and clamped together with a paper clip. The steel plates are staggered so that one end projects in front of the feather, the other to the rear. This latter slips into the saw-cut above the butt of the shaft. The forward end is held between two blunt screws, which form an adjustment feature. The two plates will thus offset the feather slightly to the center of the shaft. This should be sufficient to be easily detected with the eye. Note: This should conform to the natural curl of the feather. Right- and left-wing feathers have opposite air foils!

With the feather held between the plates, see that the stem

is flat and projects about an eighth inch below the metal so you won't get glue on the plates. Run glue on the stem and slip in place, pressing against shaft. Then hold up to the light to see that you have a good contact.

For gluing, the shaft should be laquered. Model airplane cement is used. This is the usual "household cement", but the little model tubes have a long, narrow feeder which makes gluing easier and not as messy. The model glue drys rapidly, which is an advantage, unless you have a number of jigs.

Before starting to fletch, be certain your shafts are cut to the desired length. This I am giving as 11 inches from the butt to the steel. The overall length then will vary as to the type of point used. Also, place your shafts in the jig so that the first (or at least one) of the feathers is perpendicular with the grain of the shaft which is also held perpendicular. This is to be the "slot" feather and the string *must* be across the grain or it may split the arrow on release.

As I am recommending the use of two small magnets to hold the arrow for angle shots, instead of the hold-down clip illustrated on one of the bows, the arrow length is important.

Since it is important that the feathers should be exactly alike, I am showing a home-made feather burner. This is simply a length of *thin* michron element wire, shaped to the desired silhouette of the feather, placed so the arrow can be rotated with the feather passing through it. This is in series with a heating unit for resistance. Note the little clamp that holds one of the leads to act as a rheostat. The wire should be hot enough to cut clean. These are on the market, also in kit form (Fleetwood Archery Co., Denver) but are easily made.

Every possible means should be taken with jigs, etc., to duplicate exactly all proceedures in making the arrows. The final trimmed feather is three inches long by 7/16 inch high. The highest point should be at the rear, and the feather as far back on the shaft as reasonable, about ½ inch from the butt. This last half inch of shaft is tapered to a wedge leaving the butt ⅛ inch or a little wider. This flat surface for the string must have the grain running its length as mentioned above, and fit (loosely) between the nut fingers.

ASSEMBLY: In assembling, the straight edge of your bow is up, and it must be perfectly level and centered. The rubber pad goes forward of the bow (against the back of bow) and in tightening down, some resiliency must be left in the rubber. It wants to be tight, however.

With the bow spanned (string on the nut), mark the fingers for trimming. File down the tops to as low a point as you are certain will hold the string. Excess height will have a tendency to cause the string to jump on release.

I have made no mention of the installation of the magnets. They will not be necessary for straight target shooting. The arrows must be on hand to locate the magnet position. This will be just underneath the rear of the steel arrow point. Care must be taken in mortising them in. See that they are exactly even with the edge of the groove so the points will actually contact them, yet lay in the groove. Grind any sharpness off the contacting edge. Check to see that attracting poles face each other. These are small Alnico Sintered magnets, exact size and shape not important. They are surprisingly powerful.

The string center should be marked. Then with a good backstop try your weapon out at 20 to 25 yards. Always aim your first shot low. Consider yourself as pointing the arrow, *not* the stock. Keep both eyes open.

If your arrow wobbles, test out with the string center slightly to the right, then to the left. In drawing the string, should it have a tendency to creep to one side, that limb is too stout or your bow-mount may need padding. It will be well to check your arrow for warp before blaming the wobble on bow adjustment.

Just as nearly everything you will find in an archery book will have some bearing on your crossbow, so will all you have learned about rifle shooting apply in degree to your handling of the shoulder bow.

Give the crossbow a try. You'll find it challenging, and rewarding. It's the only form of precision shooting I know of which allows you to make both your gun *and* ammunition. Even the bench-rest shooter can't equal that thoroughness of personal accomplishment! ◆ ◆ ◆

SAN FRANCISCO GUNSMITHS

Continued from page 17

work shows Billinghurst influence throughout, both in the revolving pill-lock rifles Ben made, and in his heavy match rifles. Bigelow settled in Marysville in 1852 and resided there until his death in 1888. During that period he provided many guns of top quality for the shooters of his state.

A Bigelow seven shot pill-lock revolving rifle, closely studied, reveals these statistics: The barrel is of Remington cast steel; bore about .44, rifled; seven grooves, left hand twist. A back-action lock was employed, and double set triggers. The 3½-inch seven-shot cylinder must be manually operated, and the chambers are rifled!

About the same distance south of Sacramento that Ben Bigelow was north of it, Horace Rowell set up his shop in the little mining town of Sonora. Here in the Sierra foothills he turned out some of the finest rifles ever made in the west, fully equal to those of leading eastern contemporaries.

I have visited the old stone gunshop of Rowell (later occupied by gunsmith F. F. Ball) many times. But I pass it sadly now, for the big wooden gun which used to hang over the door is no more. The building has been "modernized" and the merchandise it now holds is far different from those gleaming masterpieces that once were produced there.

Horace Rowell, a native of New Hampshire, came to California in 1853, following his brother Gilman who arrived with the first gold-seekers in 1849. After some years spent at mining and other ventures, Rowell established his gunshop in Sonora in 1875. He operated his shop there until 1900, when he sold out to F. F. Ball (who today is 90 years old).

An old-timer who knew Rowell personally describes him as a quiet, kindly man, content to take life at a slow tempo, and always finding time for hunting and target shooting, in which he excelled.

A native Sonora friend recently remarked: "Horace Rowell made his guns for sport and skill, not for holdups, and thus received little publicity in the dramatic times in which he lived. I truly believe he was one of the great artists of the day."

A number of worthy craftsmen, from Nordheim of Yreka in the far north to Denslow in San Diego, come to mind, but these we must limit to the brief listing in our roster of early California gunmakers.

Perhaps some may wonder why Los Angeles has received no mention thus far. Los Angeles and Southern California generally have drawn the spotlight only in relatively recent decades. Our subject, *pioneer gunmakers*, covers only the last half of the nineteenth century, and few gunmakers were active during that period down around the pueblo of Los Angeles.

Double or Nothing

By Jack Badgett

Photos by Casper B. Stewart

SHOOTING DOUBLE ACTION IS NOT A METHOD PRACTICED BY MANY REVOLVER ENTHUSIASTS, YET IT HAS ITS REAL ADVANTAGES

WE WERE ENGAGED in the serious business of air conditioning tomato cans placed in the side of a mountainous sawdust heap exactly sixty yards away, when the conversation turned to the double-action method of firing our revolvers.

"Well," opined my companion, who, incidentally, can usually hold his own in any bull- or target-shooting session, "double-action shooting might be good enough for plugging a king-size burglar at conversation distances, but if I had to stop him by shooting that way, I'd much prefer to have him closer to the muzzle."

This was the cue, and I couldn't resist the temptation:

"Just to prove your point, spot that quart can on the right side of the row for me."

Swinging the Smith & Wesson Masterpiece into line, I fired a rapid four-second burst of six shots. The first four shots were in the can and the remaining two dug under the bottom edge, causing it to jump as if the proverbial ants had invaded its pants.

"Nope," I sighed in mock frustration, "it just ain't a practical method of shooting. Why, that group was scattered all over a six-inch circle at a mere sixty yards, and it took all of four seconds to empty the gun!"

Slyly I watched out of the corner of my eye for his reaction, and the results were quite gratifying. His mouth hung open, and his eyes bugged like those of a spear-impaled frog. The ensuing remarks, while unprintable, were expressive.

His opinion, probably arrived at through the firing of about a dozen experimental shots via the self-cocking route, was typical of the average handgun shooter's conception of double-action shooting technique. After a few wildly yanked-off shots that hit exactly nothing, they invariably decide such carryings-on constitute an excellent way to make a lot of noise and to waste a lot of perfectly good ammunition.

Actually, the author has almost entirely forsaken the thumb-cocking method of single-action shooting as a practical means of operating the mechanism of a modern double-action revolver with speed and accuracy. Results? Well, scores on standard targets hover in the general vicinity of those made with the orthodox thumb-cocking method. Matter of fact, I could be quite happy shooting a good Smith & Wesson or Colt target model .22 or .38 Special revolver with the cocking bent entirely removed!

These are no foolish claims of having originated anything new in the field of double-action revolver shooting technique; rather, I am attempting to pass along a little-understood shooting method that is considered the ultimate approach to the old problem of combining extreme fire power with accuracy.

Getting down to the actual technique involved, there are two distinct methods of procedure generally accepted, with as many slight variations from the orthodox as there are individuals involved. These variations are necessitated by variations in individual hand size, nervous and physical make-up, reaction time, or what-have-you.

The so-called Leppert-Peterson technique, which, incidentally, is the method which gives me slightly better results, consists of inserting the trigger finger through the guard far enough to allow the tip of the finger to barely contact the frame on the opposite side *just before the backward pull on the trigger releases the hammer to fire the shot.*

The fingertip contact with the frame on the opposite side warns the shooter that only a bare ounce or so of additional pressure will send the shot on its way, and thus enables him to make any needed final alignment of sights in relation to the target as he 'wishes off' that last fraction of trigger resistance.

Proper placement of the hand on the grips of the weapon is of vital importance, and the exactly correct hold for the individual is dictated by his own personal requirements. A firm, even hold, with no point of pressure greater than another, is a must for good results.

A medium-sized Mershon grip adapter fits the regulation factory stocks of the .38-frame weapons perfectly to my hand for double-action work, but I have a broad, long-fingered hand.

The small hand with short fingers might possibly be better fitted with a custom-carved stock, or even a smaller framed weapon than the .38 Specials of Smith & Wesson or Colt manufacture.

If, at first glance, you are inclined to believe this is a somewhat slow way of double-actioning a revolver, be not deceived. Often I have been requested to demonstrate my pet stunt of hitting a quart can three or four times in the air, throwing it myself. By way of comparison, the rapid-fire thumb-cocking fans should try that stunt by cocking the revolver with the thumb for each shot!

As regards double-action accuracy, practice and study with a good target revolver will enable you to group about ninety percent of your shots inside a two- or three-inch circle at fifteen paces. Can you do any better grouping under catch-as-catch-can conditions by using the orthodox thumb-cocking method? To be perfectly frank, I can't. My enthusiasm for double-action shooting stems from the fact that I get approximately the same accuracy in less than half the time limit imposed by the single-action method.

Another factor that is often overlooked in comparing the time element involved is the slight change in hold (hand position) imposed from shot to shot by thumbing the hammer back in rapid fire. This condition is not encountered in double-action shooting. The hand is positioned correctly for the first shot, and the fingers and thumb remain in position for the entire series of six shots. The firm grip also counteracts hand shift from recoil and speeds repointing for the next shot.

Using the Leppert-Peterson double-action technique effectively on stationary targets requires that one align the sights in proper relation to each other first, and then look for the target over them; bringing the extended arm up smoothly, with sights aligned, from underneath the target to utilize the downward pull of gravity as a helpful, controlling factor. As the aligned sights come to bear on the target center, the trigger is brought backward until the tip of the trigger finger barely contacts the frame, warning that only a minute amount of additional pressure is required to release the shot.

From that point, you are on your own. The 'wishing off' of the last bare ounce or so of pressure on the trigger offers exactly the same problem of coordinated eye, mind, and hand that confronts the orthodox thumb-cocking target man when he has applied almost the required amount of trigger pressure to release his shot. Actually, it's the age-old problem of releasing the trigger without disturbing alignment of the sights on the point of aim.

After a great deal of study, practice, and dry shooting, one's trigger finger becomes educated to the exact pressure required to reach the 'nearly enough' backward pull on the trigger. And the shooter can 'take up the slack' as he brings the weapon into line with the target in much the same way that a military marksman is taught to do preparatory to squeezing off the last few ounces of trigger pressure smoothly and carefully in firing the rifle. Eventually, through practice, it becomes a subconscious act and makes possible the super-speed shooting which has been discussed pro and con since the justly famous pioneer revolver master, Mr. Ed McGivern of Montana, first demonstrated almost magical skill in accomplishing results that were considered impossible of attainment with anything other than special rifles and shotguns. Mr. McGivern, I am told, uses a constant backward pull on the double-action revolver trigger, in direct contrast to the Leppert-Peterson method.

My method of holding the revolver is entirely orthodox with but two minor exceptions. One is that the trigger finger, as described before, is inserted into the guard just far enough to enable the tip to contact the frame on the opposite side just before the trigger has been pulled back far enough to release the sear and fire the weapon. Second, my grip on the stocks is uniformly firm at all points of contact, as contrasted with the completely relaxed hold we employ in thumb-cocking, slow-fire target work. Don't overdo the firm grip to the point of creating a tremor. Rather, strive to exert an even pressure at all points of contact, no one pressure point exceeding any of the others. In my own case the thumb is extended completely, with the side lying directly across the face of the cylinder latch, tip pointed toward the target.

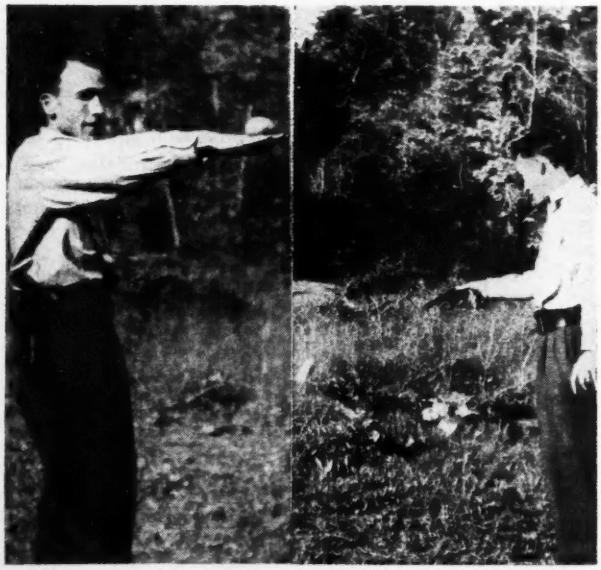
I have long argued that a man with a modern double-action revolver at his disposal invariably shoots double-action when confronted with an emergency. Therefore, why shouldn't he learn the knack of shooting accurately in this way while he still has his health? By so doing, he can have the comforting knowledge that if and when he is forced to defend home, loved ones, or self, he is entirely capable of doing so.

On moving targets such as running rabbits and aerial tin cans, we have the same problems of correct lead and gun swing with consistent follow-through as are encountered by the shotgun shooter. In other words, the aligned sights are pointed ahead—and in the path of flight—of the moving target, and must ride there steadily until after the gun fires.

That seems complicated at first, but the secret consists of moving the entire upper body slightly so that the aligned sights seem to be riding the correct distance ahead of and in the targets' path of flight. Soon it becomes an instinctive and correctly executed unconscious movement. The sights will appear to ride right where you want them without conscious effort, and you can concentrate on a well-timed and smooth trigger release.

In your first efforts to maintain correct sight alignment on the point ahead of the target as you squeeze off your shots, simply remember to pivot the body as a fixed unit, very slowly and gradually from the hips, in the direction the target is moving. That is best accomplished by transferring the weight of the body slowly and steadily from one foot to the other in the required direction.

Dry shooting practice will enable you to smother all tendency of the muzzle to wobble in erratic circles as you pull the trigger of your weapon in rapid fire. Concentrate on



One of author's pet quick draw and firing demonstrations. Dropping potato from back of hand (left), revolver is drawn from holster and fired double action. In photo at right, first shot clips end off falling Irish spud.

keeping the sights aligned. Study and experiment until you find the best hand position and grip pressure for your individual needs, and stick with them until results, in the form of close grouping of shots, begin to show on the target.

Don't be in a hurry to get into the moving target phase of the game. Stay with stationary targets until you can group your shots consistently where you want them. After all, it's rather silly to expect to hit a small moving target consistently until you know that you can group your shots on a stationary target inside a smaller area than that covered by the moving target, and within the time limit imposed by the moving object.

Begin your double-action shooting on large targets at close ranges, and stick to deliberate slow fire until good groups become a regular thing. Speed will take care of itself, and develop gradually. Don't force it.

If anyone tries to tell you that double-action practice will harm your single-cocking technique for target shooting, just tell him "Nertz!" How, we ask, can a shooting technique that teaches and requires more nearly perfect coordination of every human faculty than a slower and simpler method possibly have an adverse effect on the slower technique?

Can you, by any stretch of the imagination, picture a good citizen in his own home, a modern revolver in his hand, trying to thumb cock his weapon to fire it at an armed prowler who has already fired a shot in his direction?

No, it just isn't feasible. The subconscious takes over in such an emergency and, unless our good citizen has taken the trouble to train himself in reasonably accurate double-action shooting, he's a dead taxpayer! On the other hand, an experienced double-action shooter can and will, when such an emergency does arise, deliver six shots well inside the chest area of a man-sized target in one-half second or less.

Friends often ask me to demonstrate the stunt of instinctive pointing (weapon held below the level of the eyes). That type of shooting looks and is very deadly, and is considered the height of handgun shooting skill by the uninformed. It all boils down to an intangible thing which the inimitable Walter Rodgers dubbed 'gun feel'. Combine gun feel, which only long shooting experience with a particular weapon can give you, with a sound knowledge of double-action revolver shooting, and, my friend, you are indeed a formidable man for the criminal element to molest!

Ignoring the usual admonitions about personal references, I give here a conservative approximation of the grouping results I usually get in double-action shooting:

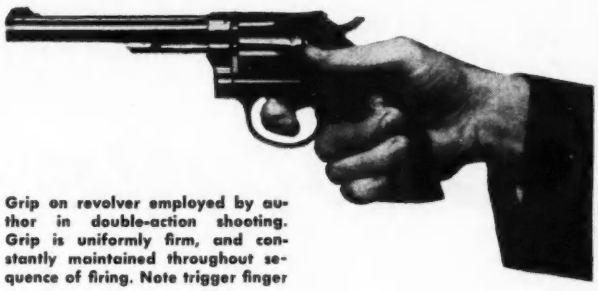
Slow, deliberate double action at fifteen yards gives about 2- to 2½-inch group averages.

Rapid fire approximately 2½- to 3-inch spreads.

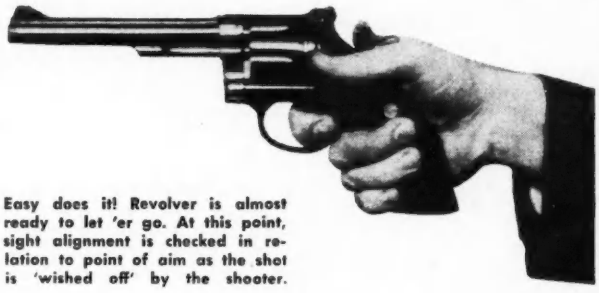
Extremely rapid bursts are usually within a five-inch spread, sometimes better when Madame Luck is smiling at us.

Holding the weapon below eye level (instinctive pointing), we usually manage to get four—often six—of the rapid burst of shots inside a tin can lying on the ground at around thirty feet distance. This is an impressive quick-draw and fire demonstration. The secret lies in keeping your eyes glued on the center of the target as you draw and point the weapon. Note instantly where your first shot hits and swing (by a minute movement of the entire body) the weapon over, up, or down the required amount to bring the remaining shots into the target area. With practice, it becomes as simple as directing the beam of a flashlight onto the center of an area. Bear in mind that a very small amount of body movement makes a great deal of difference out there where the bullets are going.

There you have it! In closing, allow me to offer one most vital admonition—*be careful always!* ♦ ♦ ♦



Grip on revolver employed by author in double-action shooting. Grip is uniformly firm, and constantly maintained throughout sequence of firing. Note trigger finger



Easy does it! Revolver is almost ready to let 'er go. At this point, sight alignment is checked in relation to point of aim as the shot is 'wished off' by the shooter.

Bang! There goes the shot. Steadiness of gun and hand throughout firing is due to evenly distributed pressure of hand. Unequal pressure is cause of 'slight tremor'

NEXT MONTH: *October is the hunter's month . . . so, look for an issue crammed with features prepared for nimrods of every persuasion. There'll be an outstanding photographic how-to-do-it by Charley Niehuis on mounting your own deer head (a Rifleman first) . . . and a joint study by the Chicago Museum's John Moyer and famed hunter Townsend Whelen on moose-hunting today. Also, part two of Don Hopkins' African letters . . . and a cover that every hunting-dog enthusiast will want to frame.*

Shotgun Patterns

By G. G. Oberfell

IN THE ANALYSIS OF SHOTGUN PATTERN EFFICIENCY, PATCHINESS OF PATTERN IS A FACTOR TO CONSIDER

THE BALLISTICS of single bullets propelled from guns having barrels with rifled bores have been fairly easily determined and, as a result, rather complete and accurate ballistic data on rifle and handgun cartridges have been given wide publication. Consequently, the performance of cartridges in rifled firearms can be predicted with reasonable accuracy. However, in the case of the shotgun, which propels a shot charge of a large number of small spherical-shaped pellets from a barrel with a smooth bore, information regarding the behavior and effect of the individual pellets has been notably deficient.

Most of the valuations of irregularity of pellet distribution in shotgun patterns have been based on visual inspection. Merely looking at a pattern and judging it by sight is subject to extreme inaccuracies and therefore leads to erroneous conclusions. H. L. Walker has presented results (RIFLEMAN, October 1946) of a method of evaluating shot-shell patterns but, as he stated, the method did not give positive information on the tendency of shot to clump or leave holes, a characteristic of patterns which is generally referred to as 'patchiness'. Other investigators have also used, as a measure of patchiness, pellet-free circular areas or pellet-free areas of other arbitrary shape or dimensions, but no fundamental relationship in shotgun patterning has been established.

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In order to ascertain how badly the average shotgun scatters shot pellets, several guns were targeted at different times and under different conditions. A study was made of the resulting patterns. These tests, the majority of which were conducted by the writer, covered in their scope 150 shotgun patterns made with fifteen different guns representing products of five manufacturers, seven different weights of shot charge, eight different sizes of shot, six different powder charges, thirty-five different chokes, and six different choking devices representing products of five manufacturers. The shells used in conducting these patterning tests were purchased through the regular channels of trade and represented the products of several ammunition manufacturers.

During about 90 percent of the patterning tests, the shots were fired at targets which were placed at a uniform distance of 40 yards from the muzzle. In the remainder of the tests, the targets were at the following distances from the muzzle: 10 yards, 13 yards, 20 yards, 27 yards, 34 yards, and 53 yards. The target consisted of a piece of ordinary wrapping paper, 36 inches wide and about 48 inches long, and was mounted on a suitable plywood backing. A 'bullseye' was placed in the center of each target in order to enable the person firing the gun to aim at the center of the target.

The following method was used in determining the shotgun pattern. A pattern model was made by cutting a circular disc, 29⅞ inches in outside diameter, from a sheet of 14

Fig. 1: 12-gauge Magnum, full choke

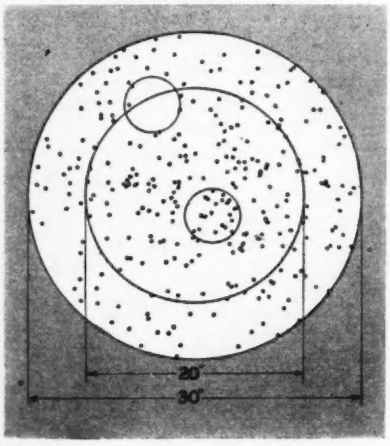


Fig. 2: .410, 3.0-inch shell, full choke

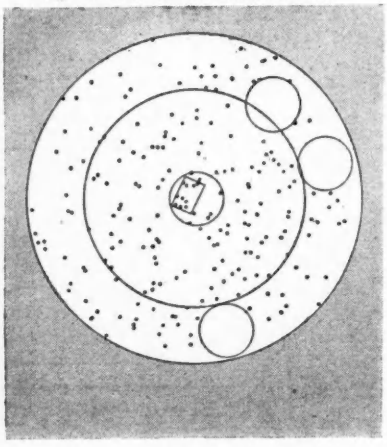
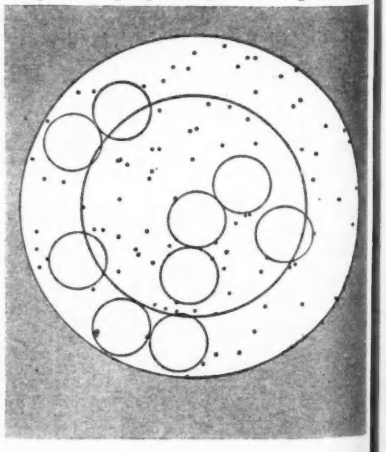


Fig. 3: 12-gauge auto, short-range choke



gauge aluminum. From the center of this circular disc was cut another circular disc, 20⅛ inches in diameter. Thus, a flat ring, 5 inches wide, 29⅞ inches in outside diameter, and 20⅛ inches in inside diameter, was obtained. To determine the shotgun pattern, this pattern model was manipulated over the area of the patterned target so as to locate that 30-inch circle in which the largest number of pellets had struck. When this was done, two concentric circles were drawn, as in Fig. 1, one a 30-inch circle obtained by running a pencil leaving a mark 1/16 inch wide along the outside of the pattern model, and the other a 20-inch circle obtained by running the pencil along the inside edge of the pattern model. The number of pellet holes within the 20-inch circle and the number of pellet holes within the area between the 20-inch and the 30-inch circles were counted. This annular space between the 20-inch and the 30-inch circles is hereafter referred to as the 'fringe' or as the 'fringe of the 20-inch pattern'. Obviously, the number of pellet holes in the 30-inch pattern is equal to the number of pellet holes in the 20-inch pattern plus the number in the annular space. The 30-inch pattern at 40 yards is the one most frequently used in patterning shotguns. The 20-inch pattern was also included in these patterning tests because a circle of 20-inch diameter is about the smallest one in which any gun would be able to place 75 percent of the pellets of the shot charge at 40 yards.

The number of pellet holes determined as described in the preceding paragraph, and the number of pellets in the charge as obtained from data published by the manufacturer of the ammunition, were used in calculating the percentages of pellets which struck within the 30-inch pattern, the 20-inch pattern and its fringe, or the annular space between the 20-inch pattern and the 30-inch pattern. In this connection, it may be mentioned that we counted the number of pellets in several shells and found that the published figures agreed with actual count generally within 2 or 3 percent. Inaccuracies due to accepting the value of the shell manufacturers on the number of pellets in the shells would affect the pattern efficiency percentages only, and those but to a minor degree. Accuracy of patchiness determination, as described below, would not be affected, since the pellet holes in the pattern were, of course, counted.

The expression 'pattern efficiency' means the percentage of pellets of the shot charge striking within the pattern area, and, unless otherwise stated, always refers to the 30-inch pattern. A '75 percent pattern' means that the gun places 75 percent of the pellets of the load in a 30-inch circle at 40 yards distance from the muzzle of the gun.

The next step in the procedure of analyzing the patterns was to determine the patchiness of each pattern. A 'patch' is arbitrarily defined as a pellet-hole-free circular area with a diameter of 5.0 inches. The patchiness of any pattern is arbitrarily defined as the number of pellet-hole-free circular areas with a diameter of 5.0 inches within that pattern, none of the areas overlapping. Such patches in patterns are sometimes referred to as 'holes', but in order to avoid confusion occasioned by the use of the expression 'pellet holes', the term patches is used. To determine the number of patches, a patchiness model consisting of a circular, transparent glass dial having a diameter of 47⅞ inches was used. This patchiness model was manipulated over the areas of the target to locate the patches. As each patch was located, a circle 5.0 inches in diameter was drawn by running a pencil along the outside edge of this glass dial. This was accomplished by using a pencil leaving a boundary mark 1/16 inch wide, thereby obtaining a circle with a diameter of 5.0 inches. The number of patches were then counted, first for the 20-inch pattern alone, second for the 20-inch pattern fringe or annular space, and third for the entire 30-inch pattern without regard to the patches in the 20-inch pattern and its fringe. In other words, in determining the patches, each one of these areas, namely, the 30-inch area, the 20-inch area, and the annular space between the 20-inch and the 30-inch, was considered separate and a part as if the other two did not exist. This naturally

Fig. 4: 12-gauge auto, improved cylinder

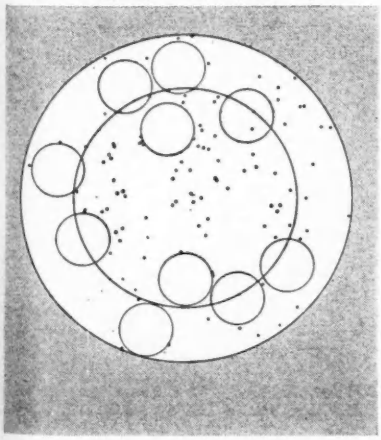


Fig. 5: .45-70 Springfield, .410 shell

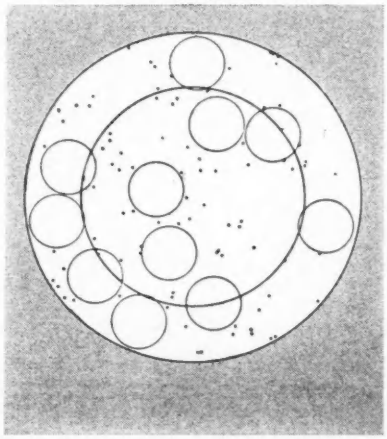


Fig. 6: Slingshot

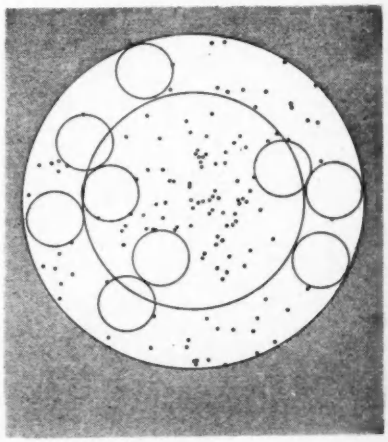


TABLE NO. 1: RELATION BETWEEN NUMBER OF PELLETS AND NUMBER OF SEPARATE 5-INCH DIAMETER CIRCULAR PATCHES IN 30-INCH PATTERNS

No. of Pellets	No. of Patches	No. of Pellets	No. of Patches	No. of Pellets	No. of Patches
25	22	125	7	225	2
50	17	150	5	250	1
75	12	175	4	275	1
100	9	200	3	300	0

Remarks: To make a table showing patchiness of 20-inch patterns, divide the results in Table 1 by 2.25, which is the ratio of the area of a 30-inch circle to that of a 20-inch circle. An example of such calculations follows: Table 1 shows that a 30-inch pattern with 100 pellets would have 9 patches. Dividing these values by 2.25 gives, for a 20-inch circle, 44 pellets (100 ÷ 2.25) and 4 patches (9 ÷ 2.25).

A table on patchiness of patterns of any given diameter, within practical limits, may be prepared from similar calculations by using as divisor the ratio of the area of a 30-inch circle to the area of the pattern of the given diameter for which such a table of patchiness information is desired.

means that the number of patches for the 30-inch pattern was in some cases greater than the combined number of patches for the 20-inch pattern and its fringe, for the reason that some of the patches in the 30-inch circle were partly in the fringe and partly in the 20-inch pattern. The excess in number of patches in the 30-inch pattern over the combined number of patches in the 20-inch patterns plus the number of patches in the fringes between the 20-inch and 30-inch patterns was not large, averaging between one and two patches per target for 150 patterned targets.

The definition of patchiness as used in this article is an arbitrary one. The reasons for choosing a circular patch, and one that is 5.0 inches in diameter, are several. First, a circular patch is more easily located. Second, a patch 5.0 inches in diameter represents a pellet-free area of almost 20 square inches, and such an area is larger than the vital area of game birds of many species. Third, a 5.0-inch diameter patch is a large one, and therefore quickly determined. Fourth, a patch much smaller than 5.0 inches in diameter would not have appreciably increased the accuracy with which patchiness could be determined, but it is judged that the accuracy of determination did justify not using a larger patch. This conclusion was reached after experimenting with patchiness models both smaller and larger than 5.0 inches in diameter.

The results of these tests showed that there is a relation between the number of pellet holes and the number of pellet-hole-free patches within the pattern area. Curve 1, in the drawing on page 5, shows this relation for the 20-inch pattern. Curve 2 shows the same relation for the 30-inch pattern. Curve 2 was derived not only from average of results of data obtained from the 30-inch patterns, but also from the average of results of the 20-inch pattern multiplied by the factor 2.25, which represents the ratio obtained by dividing the area of a 30-inch circle by the area of a 20-inch circle. In Curve 2, there are also shown the points representing data obtained in these tests for the fringe area between the 20-inch and 30-inch concentric circles, multiplied by 1.8, the ratio between the respective areas of the 30-inch pattern and the fringe. However, in plotting Curve 2, these points for the fringe area were ignored.

There was, of course, a wider variation in individual tests than is indicated by the points along the curves. However, it is evident from the regular, continuous curves of the drawing that the patchiness of circular shotgun patterns can be represented also by means of a mathematical equation expressing the relation between the number of patches and the number of pellet holes in a pattern of a given size. These relationships also indicate that the distribution of pellets follows the theory of probability, and suggest a fertile field of investigation.

The results of these tests also show that within the practical limits and variations of the performance encountered in shotgun patterning, all patterns contain patches, unless the quotient which is obtained by dividing the pattern area in square inches by the number of pellet holes in the pattern is less than about 2.5. This means that in order for a pattern to be free from patches, the pattern must contain a sufficient number of pellet holes to give an average of at least one pellet hole for each 2½ square inches of pattern area.

It is of interest to note that the patchiness of a pattern of given diameter as struck by less than about 75 percent of the pellets in the shot charge, depends only upon one thing, namely, the number of pellet holes placed in that pattern by the gun. It is an obvious and well-known fact that there is a very wide range in the percentages of pellets placed in patterns of given diameter and therefore a very wide range in the number of pellets striking within such patterns due to differences in: (1) guns, (2) muzzle devices, (3) loads, and (4) target distances. However, within practical limits of performance, such factors as the make of the shotgun, the gauge of the gun, the make of the choke device, the degree of the choke, the weight of the powder charge, the amount or size of the shot in the shot charge, and the distance of the gun from the target, have no effect upon patchiness except that

TABLE NO. 2: PATCHINESS OF REPRESENTATIVE SHOT PATTERNS SHOWING COMPARISON OF OBSERVED WITH PREDICTED VALUES

Test No.	Gun or Device	Shot Weight (Ounces)	Shot Size	Distance (Yards)	Pellets in 30-inch Pattern	No. of 5.0 Inch Diameter Patches in 30-inch Pattern	
						Observed	Predicted
14	12-Gauge Magnum Full Choke	1⅝	6	40	300	0	0
142	.410 Shotgun 3.0-inch Shell Full Choke	¾	9	40	207	3	3
45	12-Gauge Auto Choke Device, Short-Range Choke	1¼	6	40	97	9	10
94	12-Gauge Auto Improved Cylinder	1¼	6	40	126	10	7
137	U. S. Army Springfield .45-70 (1889)	½	9	10	110	11	8
156	.410, 2½-inch shell Slingshot		9	20	136	9	6

TABLE NO. 3: NUMBER OF PATCHES IN 30-INCH PATTERN AT 40 YARDS ASSUMING FULL-CHOKE BARRELS WITH 75 PERCENT EFFICIENCIES AND MAXIMUM LOADS FOR LARGE AND SMALLBORE SHOTGUNS

Gun Bore	Shot Sizes							
	2	4	5	6	7	7½	8	9
.410-gauge with 3.0 shell								
No. of pellets in ¾-ounce load	67	102	128	167	224	261	307	440
No. of pellet holes in pattern	50	77	96	125	168	196	230	330
No. of patches in pattern	17	13	10	7	4	3	2	0
20 gauge								
No. of pellets in 1-ounce load	89	136	171	224	300	348	410	585
No. of pellet holes in pattern	67	102	128	168	225	261	308	439
No. of patches in pattern	14	9	6	4	2	1	0	0
16 gauge								
No. of pellets in 1⅛ ounce load	100	154	195	252	337	391	44	658
No. of pellet holes in pattern	75	116	146	189	253	293	346	494
No. of patches in pattern	13	8	5	3	1	0	0	0
12 gauge								
No. of pellets in 1¼-ounce load	111	170	214	281	375	433	512	731
No. of pellet holes in pattern	83	128	161	211	281	325	384	548
No. of patches in pattern	11	6	4	2	1	0	0	0
12 Magnum and 3.0-inch shells, or 10 gauge and 2¾-inch shells								
No. of pellets in 1⅝-ounce load	145	221	278	361	487	565	665	951
No. of pellet holes in pattern	109	166	209	271	365	424	499	714
No. of patches in pattern	8	4	2	1	0	0	0	0

Remark: Information on the number of pellets in the loads was taken from the publications of ammunition manufacturers. The values given in the table for the number of patches were derived from Curve 2. The patchiness of patterns made with shot smaller than No. 6 will probably be of larger value than indicated in the table due to the probability of lower pattern efficiency with smaller shot. Many hunters use No. 2 shot on ducks, but the pattern even with a 12-gauge Magnum is entirely too patchy.

such factors may influence the number of pellets which strike within the pattern area. The patchiness of a pattern of given diameter depends solely upon the number of pellets which strike within that pattern.

Data on the relation between the results of these patterning tests are presented in Table 1.

Patchiness is not the only undesirable characteristic of shotgun patterns. It is a well-known fact that in addition to the presence of patches, the so-called 'balling' of shot or clustering of pellets occurs in shotgun patterns. Some data on the patchiness of several different types of shot patterns and of different pellet concentration in the patterns are shown in Table 2. Test No. 14, the results of which are shown in Table 2 and in Figure 1, is considered representative of shotgun patterns, having 300 pellet holes in a 30-inch pattern. This pattern, which was made with a 12-gauge Magnum shotgun, contained no patches, but there were in the pattern two 5.0-inch circles near each other, one of which contained only one pellet hole which was near the circumference of the circle, while the other 5.0-inch circle contained 21 pellet holes. It will be readily apparent that, if two wild ducks of average size had been in the pattern area covered by the shot charge at the time the pattern was made, one of the ducks occupying the area covered by the first circle would probably have escaped only slightly wounded, while another duck occupying the area covered by the second circle would have been badly shot up. The balling or clustering of shot occurs in all patterns, good or bad. This is the inevitable and concomitant result of lack of uniformity of pellet distribution, a condition which is bound to produce patches and clusters. They go hand in hand. One cannot exist without the other.

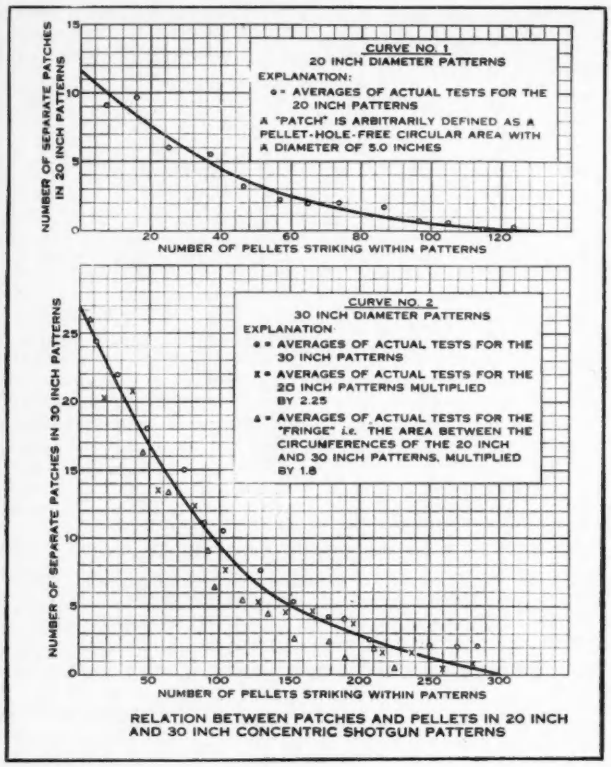
Test 142 in Table 2 (Figure 2) is representative of a shotgun pattern containing 207 pellet holes and having only three patches. These patches were mostly in the fringe of the 20-inch pattern. A 5.0-inch diameter circle in the center contained 17 pellet holes. A small rectangular area 3 inches long and 2 inches wide in the center of the 5.0-inch circle contained 10 pellet holes. This pattern was made with a .410 firing a 3.0-inch shell loaded with No. 9 shot. At 27 yards, this gun put 332 pellets in another 30-inch pattern free from patches.

The results shown in Table 2 for Test 45 (Figure 3) are representative of a pattern containing 97 pellet holes. This pattern had a total of nine separate 5.0-inch patches, and, of course, some of the pellet-hole-free areas were much larger than a 5.0-inch diameter circle.

Tests 94 and 137 of Table 2, Figures 4 and 5, respectively, are of exceptional interest, since they represent patterns of similar patchiness for two widely different guns and patterning conditions. Test 94 was made on a 30-inch pattern at 40 yards with a new autoloader, firing a 12-gauge shell loaded with 1¼ ounces of No. 6 shot. This pattern had 126 pellets and 10 patches. Test 137 shows results for a 30-inch pattern made at 10 yards with a .45-70 U.S. Army rifle, bearing the date of 1889, firing a 2½-inch .410 shell loaded with ½ ounce of No. 9 shot. There were 110 pellets and 11 patches in this pattern.

A pattern test was made with a slingshot, a forked stick with two prongs, each prong having attached to it one end of an elastic strap, with the other ends of the elastic straps attached to a soft leather receptacle used for holding the load of pellets. The actual number of pellets in the load was not counted, because it was desired to determine patchiness only, not pattern efficiency. Test 156, the results of which are presented in Table 2 and in Figure 6, was made with the slingshot at 20 yards. The pattern contained 136 pellet holes and 9 patches in the 30-inch circle and 82 pellet holes and 2 patches in the concentric 20-inch circle. Thus, there was not much difference in the patchiness of its pattern as compared with the patterns obtained with modern shotguns and modern loads.

There is quite a difference of opinion among hunters as to the best size of shot to use. Of course, the answer to this problem of shot size depends upon many factors, chief of which are pattern efficiency, the size of the bird, and the distance at which the kill is to be made. It is not an infrequent practice for hunters to favor the use of shot larger than No. 6 when birds as large as ducks and pheasants are to be


CURVE NO. 1
20 INCH DIAMETER PATTERNS
EXPLANATION:
• = AVERAGES OF ACTUAL TESTS FOR THE 20 INCH PATTERNS
A "PATCH" IS ARBITRARILY DEFINED AS A PELLET-HOLE-FREE CIRCULAR AREA WITH A DIAMETER OF 5.0 INCHES
NUMBER OF SEPARATE PATCHES IN 20 INCH PATTERNS
NUMBER OF PELLETS STRIKING WITHIN PATTERNS
CURVE NO. 2
30 INCH DIAMETER PATTERNS
EXPLANATION
• = AVERAGES OF ACTUAL TESTS FOR THE 30 INCH PATTERNS
x = AVERAGES OF ACTUAL TESTS FOR THE 20 INCH PATTERNS MULTIPLIED BY 2.25
Δ = AVERAGES OF ACTUAL TESTS FOR THE "FRINGE" i.e. THE AREA BETWEEN THE CIRCUMFERENCES OF THE 20 INCH AND 30 INCH PATTERNS, MULTIPLIED BY 1.8
NUMBER OF SEPARATE PATCHES IN 30 INCH PATTERNS
NUMBER OF PELLETS STRIKING WITHIN PATTERNS

RELATION BETWEEN PATCHES AND PELLETS IN 20 INCH AND 30 INCH CONCENTRIC SHOTGUN PATTERNS

killed at distances upward of 35 or 40 yards. Table 3 was prepared to afford some idea of the number of patches in 30-inch patterns at 40 yards with various loads of different weights and sizes of shot and with different bores of guns, assuming full-choke barrels and 75 percent pattern efficiencies.

Full-cylinder or true-cylinder barrels, i.e., barrels with no choke, are blamed for patchy and unreliable patterns. One authority has reported that about 10 percent of the patterns with true-cylinder barrels are of this type. As the choke of a barrel is increased, there is supposed to be a reduction in the tendency to produce blown patterns, in which a large area in the pattern will be found to be practically free from pellet holes. It is probable that the true-cylinder barrel has been condemned too much by appearances and deserves a more accurate appraisal than that afforded by mere visual inspection of its patterns.

We frequently hear hunters speak of killing patterns, giving the impression that the crippling of game is due to the fringe of a so-called killing pattern, and thereby implying that holding closer on the game would have effected a kill. However, the concentration of pellet holes is not always less on the fringe than in the central portion of the pattern. That is generally the case, but it occasionally happens that there are less patches per unit of area in the fringe between the 20-inch and 30-inch concentric patterns than there are in the 20-inch pattern. Besides, a cluster of shot in the fringe is far more effective than a patch in the center of the pattern. Patterns always have fringes unless all of the pellets from the shot charge are distributed uniformly within the entire pattern, and such a distribution of pellets is something which never happens. Just where the fringe begins is merely a matter of opinion for the reason that the concentration of pellets in a pattern decreases more or less regularly from its center. Fringe is more indefinite than patchiness and will remain so until it is more specifically defined, and when that is done it will be just as arbitrary as the basis for patchiness discussed here.

There are only three ways in which patchiness of patterns for a given load size can be reduced. They are: (1) using a choke or choke setting or choke tube that places the highest possible number of pellets in the pattern, (2) having the target at the closest desirable distance from the gun, and (3) using the smallest desirable size of shot. Fortunately these conditions are more or less under the control of the hunter. Which one of these means or which combination of them to use to accomplish the desired results depends, of course, upon the circumstances.

Shells with the new type of folding crimp, which do not have a top wad, gave only slightly better patterns than shells with the old type of crimp and the ordinary top wad. One authority estimates a 5 percent increase in pattern efficiency due to this new type of folding crimp. This new crimp seems to reduce to a very small and insignificant extent the number of patches in the pattern, but there is nothing to boast about with respect to its performance in comparison with its predecessor, the customary shell with the ordinary top wad. It is claimed that the new type of folding crimp eliminates blown patterns but, until the term blown patterns is defined with mathematical accuracy, any pattern with patches can be considered a blown pattern. The new type of folding crimp does not prevent patchy patterns as defined here.

Within the practical limits and variations of the performance encountered in shotgun patterning tests, the following conclusions may be drawn as a result of the tests discussed in this article:

(1) Defining a patch as a pellet-hole-free circular area 5.0 inches in diameter, all shotguns produce average patterns containing patches, unless the quotient obtained by dividing the pattern area in square inches by the number of pellet holes in the pattern is less than about 2.5.

(2) For a pattern of given diameter, such factors as the make of the shotgun, the gauge of the gun, the make of the choke device, the degree of the choke, the weight of the powder charge, the amount or size of the shot in the shot charge, and the distance of the gun from the target, have no effect upon patchiness except to the extent that such factors may influence the number of pellets which strike within that pattern. Patchiness of a pattern of given diameter depends solely upon the number of pellets which strike within that pattern.

(3) The patchiness relationship established as a result of these tests held not only for a large variety of shotguns, but the same relation also held for a 30-inch pattern at 10 yards made with a .45-70 U.S. Army rifle, of 1889 vintage, firing a 2½-inch .410 shell loaded with No. 9 shot. The relation also held reasonably well for the slingshot at 20 yards with a charge of No. 9 shot and a 30-inch pattern.

(4) The theory of probability applies to the distribution of pellets in the shotgun pattern.

(5) In many cases a pattern might contain not only patches which are large enough to permit a bird to escape, but the pattern might also contain other areas in which the clustering of pellets would cause another bird in such an area of the same pattern to be badly 'shot up'. ♦ ♦ ♦

CHAMBERING REAMERS

By Wesley O. Walker

A RIFLEMAN "How-To-Do-It"

THE AMATEUR guncraftsman, having mastered stockmaking and the forming and fitting of various small parts, eventually comes to the point where he would like to do some barrel work, but is deterred by the cost of a chambering reamer or set of reamers. Threading the barrel to fit the action is a standard lathe operation; cutting the slot for the extractor can be done by some improvised milling on the lathe, or even with a Swiss file. The making of a chambering reamer, however, would seem too complicated for the home shop. The fact that such a reamer is usually used on one or two guns at the most (and perhaps a resizing die) makes it possible to employ a type of reamer well known to machinists, and of simple construction.

An exact replica of the cartridge is turned from drill rod, leaving a ¾-inch pilot on the small end and about 4 inches of stock on the large end. The dimensions may be found from some text on ammunition, or taken from the cartridge with the micrometer. The tapered body is of course cut with the compound feed, or the use of the taper attachment if the lathe is so equipped. The shoulder, however, is best made with a forming tool ground to the desired angle. The steel is given as smooth a finish as possible, using fine Aloxite cloth and, finally, crocus cloth. The reamer blank is now removed from the lathe and exactly one half of its diameter is ground away on an ordinary grinding wheel used to sharpen tools. This half-diameter must be checked repeatedly with the micrometer during the grinding. When finished, the burr is removed with a fine hand stone, although it is not necessary to hone the surface. The reamer is now tempered as hard as possible by heating to a red heat and quenching in cold water without subsequent drawing. This of course makes it very brittle, but no difficulty has been encountered from this source. Failure to get the reamer sufficiently hard will allow it to wear and cut too small. The finished reamer is examined carefully for any rough edges, which must be removed with a fine stone. If the edges do not seem sharp to the touch, a small amount of honing on the flat surface will put it in condition.

Before using the reamer on a gun barrel, it would be well to try it in a short piece of steel similar to the barrel if possible. With the steel in the lathe, drill a hole which will have the same diameter as the bore of the barrel to be chambered. A few thousands oversize will be alright. Reaming procedure, whether on a barrel or on trial stock, is the same. Two drills are used to 'rough out' the chamber; one whose diameter is a little less than the neck, and the other whose diameter is a little less than the smallest diameter of the case proper. The reamer is chucked in the tail stock with the flat side up, and the barrel or trial piece rotated at lowest back-gear speed. The reamer is flooded with cutting oil, and fed into the bore a little at a time, withdrawing frequently to clean off the chips. As reaming nears completion, the chambers should be carefully cleaned and a cartridge tried in it. When the work has progressed to a point where the rim of the cartridge touches the end of the barrel, the chamber should be counterbored for the head of the cartridge, and the reaming resumed until completed.

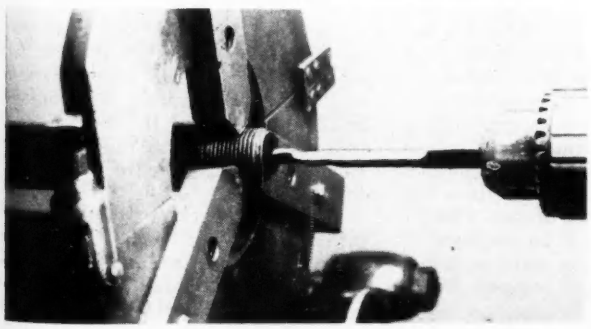
If a trial piece has been chambered, it may be split by cutting half of it away in the lathe, allowing critical inspection of the chamber as to its smoothness and how well it fits the cartridge. Do not make too many trials with the same reamer as it will wear and become smaller in time.

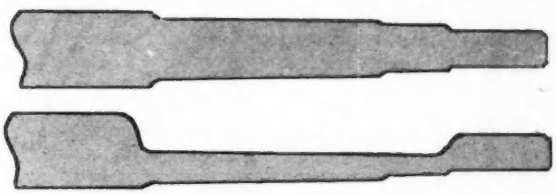
Such a reamer is not satisfactory for production work. It will ream a few holes to size if hardened very hard. Rough reaming can be traced to a rough edge on the reamer, or tool marks that were not polished off. If one desires to do much reaming with this type of tool, a worn reamer can be used for roughing, and a new reamer made for the final cuts.

One interesting application of the foregoing method might be mentioned. A .25-20 rifle was discovered to have been 'rechambered' by a former owner by means of a hand drill and an assortment of twist drills. This mutilation was repaired by boring out the chamber and reaming it out to a diameter of ½ inch with a standard reamer. Then a supplementary chamber was made, by the method already outlined, in a piece of steel of suitable size to make a press fit in the ½-inch hole.

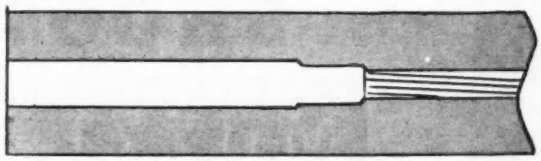
Last but not least is the opportunity for the gun crank to do some 'wildcatting' of his own. Since his reamers will cost him little more than a couple of hours time, he can economically try almost any design that comes to mind. ♦ ♦ ♦

In use, reamer is secured flat side up in the tail stock, and the barrel is rotated at the lathe's lowest back gear speed

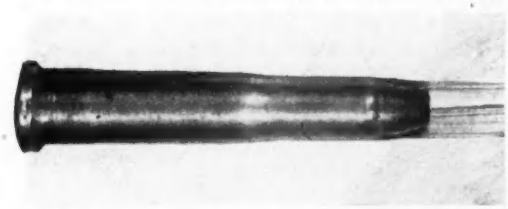


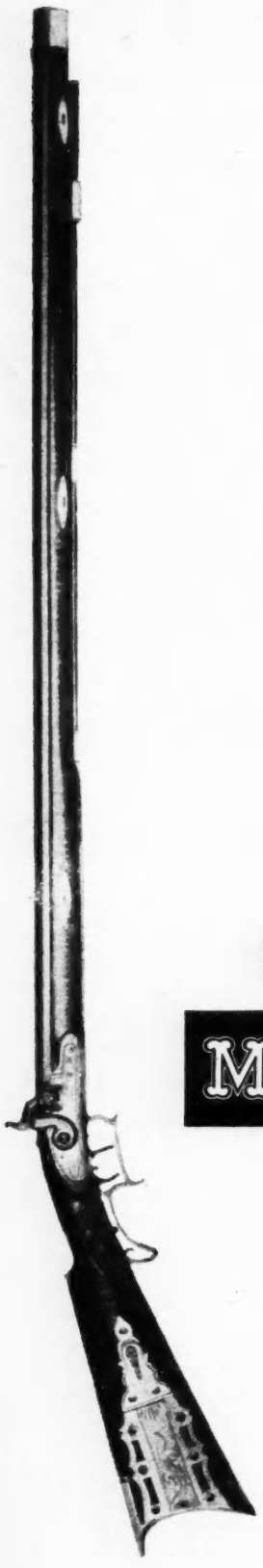


Side and top views of a typical half reamer for a bottleneck cartridge case show how half of its diameter is ground away



Above: Chamber partially completed with half reamer. Recess for case rim must be cut in end of barrel before chamber can be completed. Below: Trial chamber completed in scrap piece





SHOOTING THE MUZZLE LOADERS

By ELMER KEITH

DON'T OVERLOOK THE FUN YOU CAN HAVE WITH GRANDPA'S 'MUZZLE GUN.' YOU'LL BE SURPRISED BY ITS ACCURACY AND EASE OF LOADING

IF YOUR FINANCES happen to be a few steps behind your enthusiasm (and whose haven't been at one time or another?) you're a prime candidate for the ranks of the blackpowder burners. Get grandpa's old squirrel rifle out of the attic, invest in a little blackpowder and lead, and you can shoot for a few pennies per afternoon of fun. That's right, pennies. You'd be surprised at the amount of shooting that comes in a two-pound can of blackpowder. Want to try it? Good!

First, be sure your rifle is in good shooting condition. Remove the lock and the stock. Then with a close-fitting, wide-jawed wrench turn out the breech plug. Place the wrench on it from the underside so the top corners where they contact the stock mortise on top of the grip will not be marred.

If the bore is clean, good. If badly pitted and rusted, then it should be shipped to a competent old smith for recutting. The mold should be sent with it so it can be enlarged at the same

time. If you have no mold, order one from Lyman, Hensley & Gibbs, or Belding & Mull. The round ball should be slightly larger than bore diameter, so that it just will not drop into the barrel. Cast them of pure lead, and then roll them between two boards to smooth them up where the sprue has been cut and to make them perfectly round.

Next, lay a ball in your flat open palm and pour a mound of blackpowder over it so that it covers the ball completely. That is your charge. Make a charge cup out of the tip of a cow horn or an empty cartridge case and file it off until it will just hold that charge level full. For very small bores, around .30 caliber, use FFFG best shiny-grained blackpowder. For rifles from .34 to .45 caliber use FFG and for those over .45 caliber, usually the large-bore plains rifles, use FG black. Next, secure if possible a good grade of hard linen for patches. If this cannot be obtained use canton flannel or thin buckskin or even light overalls. The material should be washed and clean. Cut the patches in a circle so the round patch will just cover the ball completely when forced down the barrel. Next rub each patch on a block of tallow until it is thoroughly impregnated with grease on one side only.

If you are shooting a caplock rifle, see that the nipple is clean and that you can blow through the bore. If a flintlock, see that the vent is clean. Next pour a charge down the barrel and then lay one of the patches on the muzzle, greased side down. Place the ball on top and force it into the bore. With small calibers, a good close grip on the loading rod and considerable pressure will do this nicely. After the rifling has cut into the patch, the ball will run down onto the powder easily. Seat it firmly but do not tamp. With large calibers you may have to make a bullet seater with a generous handle for the palm of the hand and the rest just a short section about one inch long, of loading rod. Best to make this of hickory, or from an old hammer or ax handle. This will enable you to start large-caliber balls with ease. After the powder is poured down the muzzle it is well to jar the rifle a couple of times with the heel of the hand to settle the powder and also to make it feed up into the tube or vent. If a caplock, you have then only to place the cap on the nipple. With a flintlock, you next raise the hammer, turn back the pan, and pour some fine grain FFG blackpowder into the pan, being sure it feeds through the vent into the main powder charge. It is well to pick some of it into the vent, until it is full. Place just enough on the pan to fill it level, then lower the pan cover and the flint hammer to safety. Your rifle is loaded.

Be sure to use enough powder to make the rifle crack sharp and clean, like a blacksnake whip. It it doesn't do just that, it is not loaded right. Some rifles require slightly more than enough powder to completely cover the ball. The ball must be a tight fit in the rifling and large enough so it will cut into it slightly, before being patched, as the lead must also take the rifling as well as the patch. The patch must be thick enough to make a tight fit.

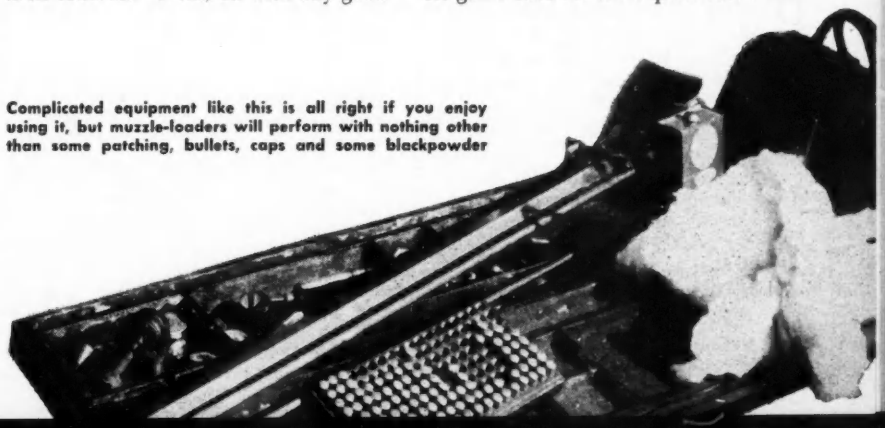
Properly loaded, the old rifles will shoot wonderfully well—amply accurate for a squirrel's head or bunnies at 30 yards. The flint should be wrapped with leather and adjusted carefully, so it will throw a shower of sparks in the pan. A lot of sport can be had with the old rifles, as well as very cheap shooting and you are then independent of present ammunition prices.

If you are to do considerable shooting at once—that is, continuous shooting and reloading—then take each patch and wet the greased side on your tongue with saliva, before placing the ball on it and ramming it home. One should also blow through the bore several times before reloading. This softens the powder residue and aids the next patched bullet in wiping the bore clean. For this reason also the saliva wet patch aids even more in wiping the bore perfectly clean. However one should never wet the patch unless it is to be fired at once, as such a wet patch will rust the barrel.

To clean a muzzleloading rifle after use, get a small rubber tube that will fit on the neck of a funnel at one end. Insert the other end in the bore, then with the rifle turned with sights down, pour about a gallon of boiling water through the piece, being careful that the boiling water from nipple or vent does not contact the stock on exit, as it will remove the stock finish. Next, with a long snobble-end cleaning rod, preferably hickory, and with a dry patch tied firmly back of the snobble, swab the bore. Change patches until they come out dry, and be sure to tie them on the end of the rod, unless you have a worm for their removal. Next, oil with any good gun oil, being sure also to put some in the nipple or vent and the rifle is then clean. If you decide to load it again before hanging it up for that possible chicken hawk, then you should wipe all surplus oil from the bore and nipple or vent and charge again using the greased patch on the ball.

Muzzleloading shotguns: With either flint or percussion lock shotguns use FFG or FG blackpowder. Use FFFG for priming the pan of flintlocks. For 20-bore guns use around 2½ drams of powder and one ounce of shot and for 16 bores around 2¾ to 3 drams of powder and one and one-eighth ounces of shot. For 12 bores use 3¼ drams and 1¼ ounces of shot. Blow through the piece after both barrels are fired and fire both barrels before recharging, or else remove the cap from the unfired barrel before recharging the fired one. You can use newspaper for wadding, but slightly oversize felt wads are much better. After pouring the charge down the bore, run down about three good felt wads and tamp the powder tight, then pour in the shot charge and run down a thinner wad that will hold the shot in place, friction tight. Do not tamp the shot, merely run the overshot wad down snug and tight on the charge.

You can experiment with variations in powder and shot charge by patterning the gun on a 40-inch square of paper at 40 yards. You will be surprised to find that a good muzzleloader, properly choke bored, will very often throw very much better patterns than are ever obtainable from any breechloader. The reason? There is no forcing cone, no crimp to force, and the shot is not mutilated when being forced from the cartridge case into the bore through the forcing cone, as is the case with all breechloaders. Properly loaded, the old, well-choked muzzleloaders will give you killing patterns second to none and as a rule much better than are possible with breechloading guns. A lot of fun can be had and ample game killed as well, what with our present limited bags and short seasons. The old stick loader will also teach you to hold your fire until the game is in range and to aim those shots carefully. You will be a better game shot for the experience. ● ● ●

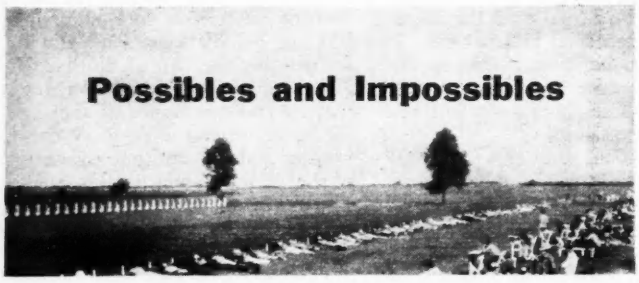


Complicated equipment like this is all right if you enjoy using it, but muzzle-loaders will perform with nothing other than some patching, bullets, caps and some blackpowder

A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

Rifle

VOL. 13, NO. 9 BRIDGEPORT, SEP



The annual trip to the July Small Bore Championship Matches at Sea Girt is always a memorable one to us, and this year it had added significance. While strolling along the firing line we ran into a fellow whose by-line appeared with this column until his retirement in 1948. In fact he wrote this column for many years. In case you haven't guessed already, it was Frank Kahrs.

Frank had a healthy Florida tan and looked trim and fit. He still shoots once or twice a week and attends as many matches as possible.

The Sea Girt Matches are anything but a new experience for Frank. He made his first trip there in 1899. He told us about a match that was organized and fired there for the first time in 1920. It consisted of four men to a team and a course that called for 15 shots at 150, 175 and 200 yards. There were three teams entered—one from Camden, one from New Haven and one known as the Renew team. This match later became known as the Palma Team Match.

The race was between the New Haven boys and the Renew team. It was touch-and-go all the way. With only one shot left to be fired, all the Renew team shooter had to do was hit the target, anywhere, and the match was in the bag. So what happened? He missed it, and the red flag came up to screen it a "swabble"—or what was commonly known in those days as a "Sea Girt bullseye," a shot fired in the ocean.

* * *

A short time ago we heard from an old friend who has taken on one of the most heart-warming projects we've heard of to date. He's setting up a course of instruction in rifle shooting in a home for crippled children. In the course of events, it became more and more apparent that there were more psychological than physical obstacles to overcome, such as the flat bed cases who were fearful they could never learn to shoot. He got around that one by telling them shooting was a lazy man's game anyway and that even the experts shot lying down.

As our friend explained, the first thing you do is to get the kids laughing and the rest seems easy. The satisfaction he gets out of his latest shooting project is probably summed up in his own statement: "I believe there are visions of 'Annie Oakleys' and 'Buffalo Bills' already sprouted."

* * *

At the Connecticut Regional Matches we met a gentleman who had just celebrated his 75th birthday by shooting two 50 meter possibles. We saw that his gun was a Model 37, No. 34 to be exact. He told us he had purchased it at Camp Perry years ago. It still had the original barrel.

In looking through a 1919 issue of "Arms and the Man" about a week later, we discovered that this gentleman had competed on the first National Small Bore range, built on the Caldwell Range. He's been in the shooting game a long time—and still going strong at 75.

"Sportsman," "Palma," "Kleanbore," "Targetmaster" are Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. "Wingmaster" is a trade mark of Remington Arms Company, Inc.

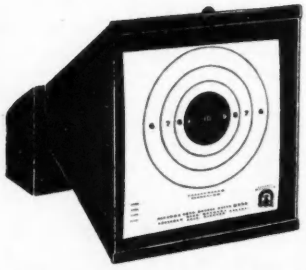
RIFLE SHOOTS MADI

Basement Range Simple Answer To "Where Can We Shoot" Query

Bridgeport, Conn., July, 1950. The best answer to the old "where can we shoot" puzzler may be just one flight down in your basement. A downstairs range is easy to install and doesn't cost much.

All you need is about 20 feet of cleared space and a bullet trap. Some shooters have put in ranges with even less space. Others have lavish set-ups with standard 50 footers tunneled under their lawns.

For as little as $16.00 you can buy a steel bullet trap that



This 37 lb. bullet trap has a 12" X 14" face, is 16" deep. It sells for around $16.00, will stop all pistol and 22 rifle bullets. Made by Detroit Bullet Trap Company, 8600 Lydon Ave., Detroit 21, Mich.

holds standard targets and will absorb 22 rifle or pistol ammo. If you expect to stage any amateur nights, or if your range is more than 30 feet long, the added protection of a large backstop around the bullet trap is a good idea. And remember . . . it's important that the rules of safe gun handling be observed at all times.

Shooters that have them report the basement range is inexpensive and a lot of fun for family and friends.

TY GU

Shown abo anding introduced in Ever sents the best arms de new methods terials,

AROUND OU

Remington News

WEATHER:
COOL SHOOTERS REPORT HOT GROUPS

DGEPORT, SEPTEMBER, 1950 — First Class Reading Matter for Rifle and Pistol Shooters

OTS REPORT HOT GROUPS
WITH REMINGTON AMMUNITION

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nding new guns Remington Every one of them repre- rms design. All incorporate terials, are backed by Rem- ington's 134 years of gunmaking experience. If you are in the market for a new big game rifle, 22 rifle or shotgun be sure to see the latest and best, the new Remingtons!

Extra Care at Remington Pays Off on Firing Line

Bridgeport, Conn., Sept., 1950. The most critical judges of 22 ammunition are the thousands of smallbore target shooters all over the country. When they say one brand of ammunition is good you can bet your best target rifle it is. And judging from the letters we've received Remington is tops.

For instance a middle-west shooter writes: "the enclosed 20X possible is my first. It was shot from prone position, at 100-yards, using your 'Palma Kleanbore' ammunition. I've been shooting for a little over a year now, and the best advice I can give a beginning shooter is stick to Remington ammunition."

Yes, Remington "Palma Kleanbore" and "Police Targetmaster" are as hot as anything on the ranges today. And consistent quality like this is no accident. It takes exacting care, and thorough checking of every detail.

From the first step of cartridge production to the packing of the finished product Remington ammunition must comply with exacting tolerance standards.

THE ACID TEST

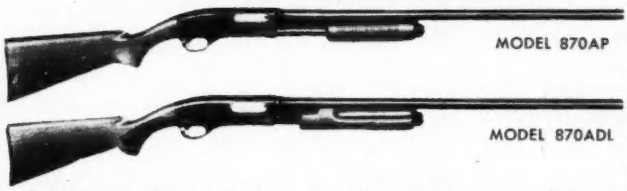
But Remington doesn't stop there. The acid test is the actual firing of finished cartridges taken off the production line. These machine tests tell exactly what kind of performance shooters will get. Every lot *must* measure up.

It is this extra care at Remington, the constant checking and re-checking, that pays off on the firing line. Remington match ammunition groups are as tight as the shooter can make them. And that is one of the reasons why Remington ammunition is so popular among target shooters all over the country.

D OU . . THE IDEA MAN

AUGE F
HT IS A
ECTIONS
CK MYSE
UND RI
YEAH! ALL AROUND THE TEN RING, BUT NEVER IN IT.
IT'S EASY TO TELL YOU'VE NEVER HAD A REMINGTON 37, PAL. YOU'VE GOT A SURPRISE COMIN'!
HOEHNLEIN

BIG DEMAND FOR NEW REMINGTON "Wingmaster" MODEL 870 PUMP ACTION SHOTGUN



MODEL 870AP

MODEL 870ADL

Bridgeport, Conn., Sept., 1950—Since the first "Wingmaster" Model 870 pump guns appeared on dealers' shelves last Spring our Ilion plant has been trying to keep up with orders. Of course, when you've got a 134-year-old reputation for quality, you don't compromise it. Tolerance standards stayed high.

But production increased and deliveries are a lot faster now. In some parts of the country you can walk into the store and walk out with a Model 870.

The new gun is really special. It has features never before seen in a pump action shotgun. For example: "Vari-Weight" plug furnished with the 12 ga., that changes its weight ¾ of a pound, breech block that locks in barrel extension, twin action bars that prevent binding of the fore-end stroke, and others.

It's a fast, smooth-operating gun . . . and plenty rugged. If you're in the market for a gun, be sure and see your dealer now. Chances are he can deliver a Model 870 before Fall.

THE SPOTTING SCOPE -- September 1950

The overwhelming opinion of NRA members throughout the country agrees with the strong action of the Executive Committee in cancelling the 1950 National Championships and Convention. The reason: present world conditions. Hundreds of letters have been received praising the committee for its forthright thinking and planning. Especially noteworthy is the new NRA Civilian Marksmanship schools which will soon go into operation. All NRA clubs and members will be given an opportunity to participate in a program similar to that which won high praise from top government and military officials during World War II. During the war years, 158,000 civilians were trained in the use of smallarms—a major contribution to national defense. . . . The Association by-laws require that a Board of Directors meeting and a Members' Meeting be held each year. The 1950 sessions will be held in San Francisco. Members will meet on October 5, at 2 p.m., the directors on October 6 at the same hour.

Headquarters people are happy to have a strong and healthy C. B. Lister back in Washington. Executive director Lister threw a scare into all of us last month when, on a business trip to Florida, he had to be hospitalized for physical and nervous fatigue. . . . Claude Petrone, RIFLEMAN photographer, and Tom Child, of the Club Activities Division, are in the service. Claude went with the D.C. 5th Marine Battalion, now stationed at Camp LeJeune, N.C., while Tom is at the U.S. Army Signal Corps school at Ft. Monmouth, N.J. . . . Ed Bridgman, NRA's New England field representative has been called to Washington to take over Child's senior and junior club work. . . . William S. Jaffray, president of the Panama Canal Zone Shooting Association, dropped into the NRA office while visiting the States last month. He was enthusiastic over the great strides organized shooting is making down there. . . . Major General Daniel H. Hudelson, commanding general of the recently federalized 40th National Guard Division of California, is a Camp Perry veteran. A Distinguished rifle shot himself, he will insist that his division have the best shooting record in the whole army. . . . E. A. Hatmaker, of Gulfport, Florida, resigned as secretary of the United States Revolver Association last month. All correspondence to the USRA should now be addressed to the Handgunner Magazine, Brewster, New York or the temporary offices of the Association at 49 Chestnut Street, Springfield, Massachusetts. . . . Harold E. Helwig, well-known smallbore shooter, has joined forces with V. J. Tiefenbrunn. Helwig will work with "Tief" in the Rifle and Pistol Shooting Division of Winchester.

Approximately 8,000 New York State teen-agers will attend gun-handling demonstration classes of the NRA Junior Hunter School this fall. A new law in the Empire state requires that youngsters between the ages of 14 and 17 be certified as graduates of the school before they can buy hunting licenses. One thousand NRA instructors will be employed to give the four-hour course, which consists of lectures, demonstrations, and the firing of 25 rounds of ammunition at paper targets. The whole idea, naturally, is to cut down hunting accidents. Other states will watch the experiment with interest. . . . The Burbank Legion Rifle Club, of California, has celebrated its silver anniversary. Of the 25 original members, only one is still active. He is Alfred J. Johnson, president of the club since it was organized. . . . Guy C. Wertz, Director of Recreation for the city of Waukeska, Wisconsin, although no shooter himself, recently scraped the bottom of the barrel to get funds for a city junior rifle club. A high-thinking city official, Wertz figured proper gun instruction would do more good than poor restrictive legislation.

In case you missed it in your daily newspaper, a college president, saying he is alarmed at world conditions, recently recommended that church members follow their prayers with rifle practice. Dr. E. C. Nance, president of the University of Tampa, advised leaders of groups interested in peace, including churches, to "launch a campaign of instruction in the use of firearms to every man, woman and child in the United States". . . . . Hunters will be interested in the NRA's new "Hunters Manual" which will make its appearance this fall.

Paul Cardinal

NRA Championships, Convention Cancelled; 20 Selected By Nominating Committee

At the July 29, 1950 meeting of the Executive Committee of the NRA held in Washington, D. C., the three National Championship matches and the third annual NRA convention were cancelled due to present international conditions.

Several large tournament sponsors in different sections of the country have since generously offered their facilities as substitute sites for the national championship matches, but the reasons that compelled the cancellation of the championships would not permit the NRA to accept the offers. No matter where the national championships were staged, the same amount of civilian competitor travel, equipment and personnel would have been involved. The only alternative would have been to give the name "National Championship" to a sectional tournament which would not be in the true tradition of the big event.

MEMBERS, DIRECTORS MEET

The annual meeting of members of the National Rifle Association for the election of Directors and to conduct such other business as may be properly presented, as provided in the by-laws, will be held in the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, California, on Thursday, October 5, 1950, at 2 P.M. All NRA members have the privilege of the floor. The right to vote is limited to Life and Endowment Members, Benefactors and Patrons.

The annual meeting of the NRA Board of Directors will be held in the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, California, Friday, October 6, 1950 at 2 P.M., as provided in the by-laws of the Association. The purpose of this meeting is the election of officers for the ensuing year, and the consideration of such other business as may properly come before the board.

Prior to the action of the NRA Executive Committee, many individual entries in the National Championships were being cancelled as more and more service men and civilians were being mobilized. In the opinion of experienced civilian and military leaders on the NRA Executive Committee, the condition would have multiplied as time went on and a true championship field could not be assembled.

The cancellation of the championships brought up the necessity of making substitute awards for the "trip prizes." The Executive Committee authorized the substitution of "merchandise awards" and each trip winner will be allowed to select $100.00 worth of merchandise advertised in the RIFLEMAN. Full details on how to complete the selection and obtain the award will be furnished each winner individually.

All shooters who have already mailed their national championship entry and advance fee will receive a refund of the full amount.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Directors Nominating Committee met in Washington on July 8th to review the pre-nominations received and to select a list of 20 candidates for nominations at the 1950 Annual Members Meeting. The Committee found that while almost 270,000 pre-nomination forms had been furnished NRA members this year (a copy of this form was printed in the June AMERICAN RIFLEMAN) only 196 members had seen fit to suggest a candidate to represent them! This was only 40 more than in 1949 when 17,000 forms were mailed to Life Members.

As several members suggested the same candidate the 196 returns named 51 separate individuals (as compared with 80 individuals suggested in 1949). No suggestions were received from 22 states. Pre-nominations were requested from both individual and organization members and it was hoped that the wide distribution through the RIFLEMAN would result in a far larger return than in previous years when forms had gone only to Life Members.

The committee consisted of the following: Mr. J. A. Badeaux (Chairman), Thibodaux, Louisiana; Mrs. Alice H. Bull, Seattle, Washington; Mr. Harry Reeves, Detroit, Michigan; Mr. Valentine B. Cleaver, Rockville Centre, N. Y.; Mr. Arthur Jackson, Brooklyn, New York; Mr. Lew W. Mason, Aurora, Illinois; Lieutenant Gail Bahr, Denver, Colorado; Mr. Clarke Wilson, Lincoln, Nebraska; Mr. George Whittington, Amarillo, Texas; Mr. Howard Johnson, Phoenix, Arizona; Captain Henry R. Jacobs, Woodland, California.

All members were present except Mr. Jackson.

According to the present By-Laws the 1950 Directors Nominating Committee was restricted in selecting their candidates to those named on pre-nomination forms.

The committee was in session all day July 8th. All nominees were carefully considered. Maps and charts showing geographical distribution of the Board of Directors, the number of NRA members in each state and area, the number of clubs, tournaments and leagues in each area were available to the committee. The activity of each suggested nominee in his area (usually two or more states) was carefully reviewed.

The increasing size of the Association and its activities during the past several years has required that Directors be able and willing to investigate advertising complaints, individual misunderstandings and many other club and individual matters when requested to do so by the Headquarters Office. This factor was also considered in connection in the selection of nominees.

The Committee selected the following twenty individuals as the 1950 Nominee's List plus six alternates. Their names will be presented at the Annual Members Meeting of 1950. Additional nominations may be made on the floor at the Annual meeting.

A brief biography of each nominee:

William E. Lawrence, New York, New York

Director of Health and Safety for the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Lawrence succeeds Fred Mills, long-time member of the NRA Board of Directors and Executive Committee, in his high level post with the Boy Scout organization.

B. K. Soby, Fergus Falls, Minnesota

Mr. Soby, currently serving his first three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors, is Treasurer of the Minnesota State Rifle and Pistol Association and an officer of the Fergus Falls Rifle and Pistol club. He is both a smallbore and a .30 caliber shooter.

Donald B. Hilliker, Kenmore, New York

Also a member of the present Board of Directors. Mr. Hilliker is Chief Instructor of the Buffalo Revolver and Rifle Club and for a number of years has been very active in both Junior and Senior club organization work. He has filled many important speaking engagements for the NRA and assisted materially in the NRA legislative program.

Raymond K. Stritzinger, Scarsdale, New York

Mr. Stritzinger has several times served on the NRA Board of Directors and was a member of the Executive Committee until the press of business forced him to request less demanding NRA duties. Chairman of the Board of the Continental Baking Co., Mr. Stritzinger has many times assisted the NRA materially with his vast experience and business "know how." Mr. Stritzinger is both a smallbore and .30 caliber shooter.

E. R. Lamster, Pierre, South Dakota

Mr. Lamster is a professional game conservation officer and the editor of the South Dakota Game Conservation Digest. An ardent shooter, NRA referee and club organizer, Mr. Lamster is a member of the Onida Gun Club, the Blunt Rod and Gun Club, the Lewis and Clark Rifle and Pistol Club, and a member of the Tri-State League.

Dr. Henry J. E. Reid, Hampton, Virginia

Dr. Reid is one of the country's leading aeronautical engineers. He is the Director of the Aeronautical Research Laboratory of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and an enthusistic shooter with rifle and pistol. He is a charter member of the Hampton Rifle Club and has held the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Range Officer. Dr. Reid is currently a member of the NRA Board of Directors.

C. B. Lister, Washington, D. C.

Executive Director of the NRA, Editor of the American Rifleman and a member of the NRA Executive Committee. Mr. Lister has for over twenty-five years served the NRA in an executive capacity. He is one of the three paid officers of the NRA (Executive Director, Secretary and Treasurer) who, under the new suggested by-laws, will hold membership automatically on the Board of Directors.

Major General M. A. Edson, Montpelier, Vermont

President of the National Rifle Association. Major General Edson was commander of the First Marine Raider Battalion at Tulagi and Guadalcanal. Chief of Staff of the Second Marine Division at Tarawa and Assistant Division Commander at Saipan and Tinian. He holds the Congressional Medal of Honor and is, at present, Commissioner of Public Safety in the state of Vermont. General Edson is a distinguished .30 caliber rifleman and has many times captained victorious Marine Corps rifle teams.

Don R. Gillies, Detroit, Michigan

Outdoor Editor for the shooting conscious Detroit Times, Don Gillies has served three times as a Director of the NRA. He is President of the Michigan Rifle and Pistol Association and President of the Michigan Outdoor Writers Association. In addition to his many other activities, Mr. Gillies conducts the Hearst-Times indoor rifle shoot in Detroit drawing 3,000 competitors annually.

Thomas S. Blakemore, Chicago, Illinois

An engineer for Western Electric Company. Mr. Blakemore is active in both the Austin Rifle Club of Chicago and the Wheaton Rifle Club. He has held several offices in the Illinois State Rifle Association and has been a member of the NRA High Power Competitions Committee.

David P. Sugden, Salt Lake City, Utah

Mr. Sugden is a mining engineer with the Bureau of Mines. He is currently a member of the NRA Board of Directors. Has been active in the Utah State Rifle Association and is President of the Salt Lake Small Arms Club. He is a well-known .30 caliber shooter and has worked hard and long for junior shooting in the Utah area.

Dr. Roy Freeman, Joplin, Missouri

A medical doctor and specialist, Dr. Freeman is President of the Joplin Rifle and Pistol Club. He is an active smallbore shooter and a frequent competitor at registered tournaments in Iowa, Texas and Louisiana.

Dr. R. G. Carl, Enid, Oklahoma

Dr. Carl is an old timer in the field of .30 caliber competition. He has for years sparker the Oklahoma State .30 Caliber matches and is one of the leaders in the revival of .30 caliber shooting. Dr. Carl is a smallbore shooter as well and a frequent registered tournament competitor. He is president of the Enid Rifle and Pistol Club.

Roland V. Manning, Greenacres, Washington

A building contractor and merchant of Spokane, Washington, Mr. Manning has long been active in the organization of Senior and Junior clubs. He is a member of the Kirkland-Redmond Rifle and Pistol Club and the Spokane Rifle Club. Mr. Manning is both a smallbore and .30 caliber shooter and a bench-rest enthusiast.

Edward McDaniel, Cimarron, New Mexico

A cattle rancher, Mr. McDaniel has been active in building and promoting the Cimarron Rifle and Pistol Club and is active in the New Mexico State Rifle Association. Mr. McDaniel is both a .30 caliber and a smallbore shooter.

Lester A. Pope, Los Angeles, California

Formerly one of the country's leading smallbore competitors, L. A. Pope for years has devoted much of his time to the promotion of shooting and the organization of clubs in California. He is currently a member of the NRA Board of Directors and has served several terms in that capacity. Mr. Pope was instrumental in promoting the Los Angeles Police junior shooting program that has received prominence.

H. R. Jacobs, Woodland, California

An active competitive pistol shooter, Mr. Jacobs is a captain on the California State Highway Patrol and captain of the Highway Patrol Pistol Team. Captain Jacobs is the father of Gloria Jacobs Norton who holds many women's national pistol records. Captain Jacobs is a frequent National Match competitor and has fired in many Camp Perry matches.

Dexter F. Rhodes, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Mr. Rhodes is secretary of the Wisconsin Rifle Association, secretary of the County Line Rifle and Pistol League and past President of the Allied Veterans Rifle Club. He is active in Wisconsin as both a rifle and pistol shooter and in the promotion of junior shooting.

D. J. Bolton, Medford, Oregon

Mr. Bolton is owner-manager of the Medford Laboratories and an active pistol, .30 caliber and smallbore shooter. He has held several offices including President of the Medford Rifle Club and is its present secretary. In addition, Mr. Bolton is active in the Portland Rifle Club, the Oregon State Rifle and Pistol Association and is Secretary of the California-Oregon Rifle League.

John G. Lenz, Baltimore, Maryland

A life member of the Glenmore Rifle and Pistol Club of Baltimore, Mr. Lenz is past President of the Associated Rifle and Pistol Clubs of Baltimore and is their Director of Training and Junior Activities. Mr. Lenz has done outstanding work in the field of junior shooting and has conducted the state of Maryland's first Indoor and Outdoor Junior State Championship Matches.

The following alternates were named in order by the Directors Nominating Committee to fill openings that may occur.

Frank C. Crooker, Jr., Westboro, Massachusetts
Farley Tubbs, Lansing, Michigan
Frank Svec, Palisades Park, New Jersey
Harry P. Swing, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
Gail Bahr, Denver, Colorado
Forest I. Murphy, Sacramento, California.

D.C.M. NOTES:

Due to the great increase in the work in Ordnance installations in supplying the needs of the armed forces, the Ordnance Department has been forced to suspend all sales of rifles to NRA members until further notice.

This suspension of sales became effective the first of August and applied to all orders for rifles received by the DCM which had not yet been forwarded to Ordnance arsenals.

Since March 1st, 1950, over 34,000 orders for rifles have been processed by the DCM and forwarded to arsenals. When sales were suspended, processing of orders had reached those received in the latter part of May, 1950. All orders from NRA members received up to July 31st that had not been forwarded to arsenals will be recorded, and the writers will be given preference for M1903 rifles when sales are resumed in the future. Orders received after July 31st will be returned to the writers.

Members who have not received their rifles are requested not to write the DCM as each member will be notified as to the status of his order. When sales of rifles are resumed, announcement will be made in the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN.

RULE CHANGES

The Executive Committee in its meeting on July 29th voted approval of the following rule changes which will be effective Sept. 1, 1950.

Smallbore

Rule 1-14 Kneeling Position rewritten as follows: "In the kneeling position the buttocks are clear of the ground, but may rest on one foot, the rifle is supported by the hands and one shoulder only. The elbow of the left arm (or right arm in the case of a left-handed shooter) rests on the knee or leg, the elbow of the trigger arm is free from all support. One knee must be touching the ground or mat. A soft cushion may be used. If it is used it must be placed fully beneath the instep of the foot with the toes and knee touching the ground or mat on the firing point. The only cushion to be allowed will be one cylindrical in shape and one of two sizes, both approximately 7-9/10ths inches long and 4 inches or 6 inches in diameter.

Rule 10-17 Team Classification; rewritten as follows: "Teams are classified by computing the "team average" based on the classification of each firing member of the team. To compute this "team average" the key in Table No. III for the different classes will be used for both outdoor and gallery competition and the team total divided by the number of firing members of the team. Any fractional figure in the team total of one half or more will place team in next higher class. The "team average" will establish classification of the team as a unit but will not affect in any way the individual classification of team members.

Table No. III

Class	Outdoor & Gallery
Master	4
Expert and Unclassified	3
Sharpshooter	2
Marksman	1
Tyros	1

Example: A team composed of 1 Master (4) 2 Experts (6) and 1 Marksman (1) as firing members would have a total team value of eleven which would be divided by 4 (the number of firing members of the team) for an average of 2.75 as the "team average". This would place the team in the Expert Class.

Pistol

Rule 18-19 Team Classification: Table No. I on page 35 of the pistol rule book has been rewritten as follows:

Class	Key
Master	4
Expert & Unclassified	3
Sharpshooter	2
Marksman	1
Tyros	1

ANTELOPE HUNT

Not since the buffalo roamed and the deer and antelope played over spacious prairies and a white man wasn't within a thousand miles of what is now known as Gillette, Wyoming—has there been so many fleet and wily antelope roaming the wide open spaces of the west. According to a composite of several counts taken last winter by the Wyoming Fish and Game Commission, there are between 35,000 and 40,000 antelope on the ranges to the north, east, south and west of the community of Gillette. Under the protection of the commission, the herds have grown in size from the sparsely scattered bands of the homestead days to the present population, which is threatening to take over almost literally the ranchers' lands if another year is allowed to go by without drastic curtailment measures.

The commission has opened an area in the northeastern corner of Wyoming to an 18[illegible] hunting permits, which will be sold first-come first-served to resident or non-resident hunters. This area extends generally from an east-west line at Douglas, Wyoming, north to

Montana border and from the north-south line of U. S. Highway 87 east to the South Dakota border. Of the 18,000 permits, which will be sold at $5.00 each to residents of Wyoming and $25.00 each to non-residents, 12,000 are to be available in Gillette, which is sponsoring the Gillette Antelope Round-Up.

The Gillette Rotary club is giving away $1,000 in prizes for the best specimens brought in during the three days, September 8, 9 and 10. The entry fee will be $5.00 and gives the holder the chance at four prizes which will be awarded on Sunday, September 10 at 9:30 P.M.

One prize of $350 will be for the largest buck, by weight. Hide, head and hooves will be left on but all internal organs removed. Another $350 will go to the hunter who brings in the largest doe, under the same conditions. $200 will be awarded for the buck having the largest spread of horns. The spread will be judged by measuring the horns from tip to tip, and all freak heads will be excluded. One hundred dollars will be awarded for the smallest antelope of either sex. This, in a sense, is not an award but a reward. It often happens that in firing at a large herd, a small antelope is accidentally killed. The committee hopes this award will encourage hunters to bring in their kills. Some hunters argue that this prize will only encourage a minority of hunters to concentrate on the babies but the winning argument can only be settled in light of this year's experience.

The out of state hunting license, which costs $25.00, entitles the holder to one antelope of either sex. It has two coupons attached. The first is the antelope tag, which must be filled out and attached to the antelope at the time of the kill. The second is the landowner's coupon. It must be filled out and left with the rancher on whose property the kill was made. Hunters entering the Round-Up must, in addition, get the rancher's signature on the back of the remaining license to prove they had got permission to hunt his land.

The Gillette Antelope Round-Up is open to any hunter, providing he abides by the hunting laws of the State of Wyoming. Accordingly, it is necessary that he use a rifle of greater than .23 inch bore and have the necessary license. Licenses are now on sale and may be procured by the non-resident sending his physical description (color of hair, eyes, weight, and height), accompanied by a fee of $25.00, to Dutch Dahlman in Gillette or to the Game and Fish Department in Cheyenne. Licenses should be available during the entire hunting season, extending from September 5 through 25.

The NRA TOURNAMENT NEWS is being mailed to smallbore and pistol shooters who have fired in NRA registered Tournaments during 1948 and 1949, highpower rifle competitors whose addresses were available from 1949 tournament bulletins, affiliated colleges, club secretaries (junior and senior), official NRA Referees, and NRA Directors. If the address on your copy is not correct please give us the word. In reporting a change of address to the NRA TOURNAMENT NEWS please keep in mind that we need your old address.

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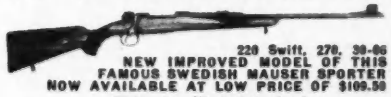

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1903 Bayonet & Scabbard	1.50 "	Spencer Main Spring	1.00 "
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COMING EVENTS

Tournaments and other important events listed below include all National, Regional and State Championships that have been registered with the NRA as of January 1, 1950. The current Rifle and Pistol Registered Tournament Schedule (available on request) lists all registered tournaments that were reported to NRA Headquarters by March 15, 1950. Tournaments other than championships are not listed in this column after the publication of the seasonal schedule.

Tournaments requiring advance entries are indicated by (Adv.). Tournaments limiting the number of entries that can be accepted are indicated by (Ltd.).

PISTOL REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

SEPTEMBER

2-3-4—North Pacific at Raymond, Washington. Malcolm B. Edwards, P. O. Box 252, South Bend, Washington (Adv.-Ltd.).

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS AND OTHER REGISTERED TOURNAMENTS

SEPTEMBER

2-3-4 OHIO—Ohio State Pistol Championship at Camp Perry, Ohio. A. L. Schmieg, 91 E. Weisheimer Road, Columbus, Ohio.

3-4 MONTANA—Montana State Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Lewistown, Montana. E. S. Shomaker, 2010 8th Avenue North, Great Falls, Mont.

3 KANSAS—Kansas State Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Topeka, Kansas. Archie I. Marshall, 1324 North Monroe, Topeka, Kansas.

3-4 WYOMING—Wyoming State .30 Caliber Rifle Matches at Worland, Wyoming. Mr. Clyde B. Crowe, 1001 Pulliam Avenue, Worland, Wyoming.

2-3 LOUISIANA—Louisiana State Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Lake Charles, Louisiana. Perry Bumpers, P. O. Box 1426, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

9-10 NEBRASKA—Nebraska State Small Bore Tournament at Grand Island, Nebraska. Harold F. Buis, 1312 North 35th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

10 INDIANA—Indiana State Outdoor Rifle Championship at Anderson, Indiana. Avery Pitts, [illegible] Lindberg Street, Anderson, Indiana.

9-10 WEST VIRGINIA—13th Annual Mountain State Pistol Tournament at Parkersburg, West Virginia. R. A. Simpson, 212 West 10th Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

10 NEW MEXICO—New Mexico State Pistol Championships at Los Alamos, New Mexico. M. George E. Irwin, New Mexico State Pistol Association, c/o Atomic Energy Protective Force, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

17 IOWA—Iowa State .30 Caliber Championship at Wilton Junction, Iowa. Ruth Maurer, Wilton Junction, Iowa.

16-17 PENNSYLVANIA—Pennsylvania Smallbore Rifle Championship at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Chris Logan, 1121 South 19th Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

16-17 MISSOURI—Missouri State Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Warrensburg, Missouri. R. Dorian, 4020 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, Missouri.

16-17 OKLAHOMA—Oklahoma State Big Bore Championship at Claremore, Oklahoma. E. M. Fuller, Box 832, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

17 IOWA—Iowa State .30 Caliber Championship at Wilton Junction, Iowa. Ruth Maurer, Wilton Junction, Iowa.

16-17 LOUISIANA—Louisiana State Rifle Matches at Shreveport, La. J. H. Flournoy, P. O. Box 1098, Shreveport, La.

16-17 MISSOURI—Missouri State Smallbore Rifle Tournament at Warrensburg, Missouri. R. Dorian, 4020 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, Missouri.

24 UTAH—Utah State Pistol Championship at Salt Lake City, Utah. Ralph K. Walker, 161 G Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

30-October 1 MASSACHUSETTS—Massachusetts State Smallbore Rifle Tournament at Framingham, Massachusetts. Kent R. Bulfinch, 444 Belknap, Framingham, Massachusetts.

30-October 1 OHIO—Ohio State Outdoor Rifle Championship at Camp Perry, Ohio. John Lang, 3498 Meadow Avenue, Cincinnati 11, O. (Adv.).

OCTOBER

7-8 ARKANSAS—Eighth Annual Arkansas State Rifle Tournament at Little Rock, Arkansas. Roland P. Patten, 521 Pyramid Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.

21-22 ALABAMA—Alabama State Small Bore Rifle Championship at Mobile, Alabama. R. Hartman, 201 Levert Street, Mobile, Alabama. (Adv.-Ltd.).

21-22 OKLAHOMA—Oklahoma State Small Bore Rifle Championship at Tulsa, Oklahoma. R. Hannifield, 1139 South Florence Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma (Adv.-Ltd.).

NOVEMBER

11-12 CALIFORNIA—Pacific States Fall Smallbore Round-Up Tournament at Monterey Park, California. Mrs. Gladys Rising, 600 North Mayo, Compton, California.

CHANGE OF DATES AND CANCELLATIONS

September 2-3 TEXAS—South Texas Pistol Tournament at Houston, Texas. Frank Ratcliffe, 1319 West Pierce, Houston 6, Texas. (Note: Old date scheduled for June 3-4.)

September 9-10 MISSOURI—Sixth Annual Pistol Tournament at St. Louis, Missouri. Frank Stubits, 5507 Lisette Avenue, St. Louis 9, Missouri (Note: Old date scheduled for August 12-13).

September 9-10 OKLAHOMA—Oklahoma State Big Bore Tournament at Claremore, Oklahoma. E. M. Fuller, Box 832, Stillwater, Oklahoma. (Note: Old date scheduled for September 16-17.)

September 10 NEW YORK—Sixteenth Annual Rifle Tournament at Albany, New York. Gilbert W. Welsh, 1291 Garner Avenue, Schenectady 8, New York (Note: old date schedule for September 24, 1950).

September 16-17 MARYLAND — Patapsco Small Bore Rifle Championship at Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Donald Melvin, 606 Wyanoke Ave., Baltimore, Maryland. (Note: Old date scheduled for September 9-10.)

September 16-17 PENNSYLVANIA—Fort Hand Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Vandergrift, Pennsylvania. G. W. Rupp, 1029 Hancock Avenue, Vandergrift, Pennsylvania. This tournament has been cancelled.

September 16-17 LOUISIANA—Louisiana State Pistol Matches at Shreveport, Louisiana. Mr. J. H. Flournoy, P. O. Box 1098, Shreveport, Louisiana. (Note: Old date scheduled for August 5-6.)

September 17 NEW YORK—Canandaigua Snowshue Rifle Tournament at Canandaigua, New York. Mr. C. McEniry, 1600 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, New York. (This Tournament has been cancelled.)

September 24 PENNSYLVANIA — Kennametal Outdoor Rifle Tournament at Youngstown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Charles L. Kabana, 319 Oak Street, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. (Note: Old date scheduled for September 3rd.)

September 30-October 1 MASSACHUSETTS—Massachusetts State Smallbore Rifle Tournament at Framingham, Massachusetts. Mr. Kent R. Bullinch, 444 Kelknop Road, Framingham, Massachusetts. (Note: Old date scheduled for September 23-24.)

October 22 CALIFORNIA—Bay District Smallbore Rifle Tournament at Richmond, California. Ernest J. Martin, 2904 Maricopa Avenue, Richmond, Calif. (Note: Old date scheduled for October 2nd.)

October 29 FLORIDA—Palmetto Pistol Club Tournament at Coral Gables, Florida. A. T. Kelley, P. O. Box 43, Coral Gables, Florida. (Note: Old date scheduled for September 3rd.)

ADDITIONS

September 16-17 PENNSYLVANIA — Pennsylvania State Smallbore Championship at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Chris Logan, 1121 South 19th Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

September 17 WISCONSIN — Fall High Power Rifle Tournament at Racine, Wisconsin. Dexter Rhodes, 3828 Sheridan Avenue, Milwaukee 9, Wisconsin.

September 30-October 1 TENNESSEE—Tennessee State .30 Caliber Championship at Knoxville, Tennessee. A. W. Nine, Volunteer Rifle and Pistol Club, Knoxville, Tennessee.

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One .22 caliber Hi-Standard G.E. Model with white plastic grips. Serial number 122630. Mr. Howard Hagen, 6104 Cord Avenue, Rivera, Calif.

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One .22 HD Hi-Standard. Mr. Jim Phillips, Box 784 Auburn, Alabama.

One Colt S.A.A. Serial number 337427. Mr. W. Turner, 445 E. Lenox Avenue, Norfolk, Va.

One Winchester Model 94 carbine. Serial No. 3568481. One 1917 model Colt D.A. Serial No. 92178. Frontier Model Colt .44. Serial number 7814. One Winchester, single barrel shotgun, no number available. One Riverside, double barrel shotgun, with hammers, no number available. Mr. Ernest Bean, 339 17th Avenue, Seattle 22, Washington.

One Colt 1847 .44 caliber Walker Model Revolver, serial number A-Company No. 1. Mr. Lorrin W. Walters, 14762 Magnolia Boulevard, Van Nuys, California.

One .45 Automatic Pistol. Serial number 145355. Mr. Sherman W. Allman, Emporium, Pennsylvania.

One .32 caliber blue steel revolver, wood grips. Serial number 110254. Mr. James F. Hartness, Superintendent, Haverford Township Police.

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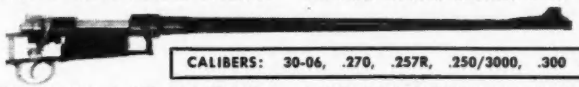

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Dope Bag

answers by THE RIFLEMAN'S PANEL OF EXPERTS

Julian S. Hatcher • Al Barr • Elmer Keith • M. D. Waite

VARMINT AND TARGET SCOPE

I am one of those individuals with a champagne taste and beer money who desires to outfit a very accurate Varminter with sights deserving of it. I intend to use it both for target and crow shooting.

Specifically, my questions are:

How do the Edwards and Litschert scopes compare with Unertl or Lyman? Are both the Edwards and Litschert of comparable optical quality with the other two?

How satisfactory are the scope attachments made by Edwards and Litschert and how do they compare optically, both within the two, and with other sights?—Robert Fausett, Duthie, Idaho.

Answer by Al Barr: If you were to pay $30 for an item, you could hardly expect it to compare with one selling for $60 or $70. Literally, you get what you pay for. I would not use either one of these scopes for benchrest shooting or for serious target work. They are field scopes and I consider them as such.

I would not part with the 6X Litschert attachment I have fitted to a K2.5 Weaver scope on a bullpup rifle. It has been superbly reliable and for the price it is one of the best combinations I have ever had.

RIFLE COMPENSATOR

We have recently used on a model 1903 Springfield rifle two compensators made by the firm of Shapel & Vorkink, located at 1708 Lamberton, Boise, Idaho. The first one cut recoil an estimated 30 percent, but still threw the muzzle blast back in our left ear. The second one, an improved version of the first one tried, is most excellent, cutting recoil an estimated 40 percent and with a total absence of muzzle blast and report in the left ear. Accuracy was excellent though we shot service armor-piercing ammunition. This is one compensator that makes shooting the Springfield a pleasure as far as recoil is concerned, with an absence of the usual muzzle blast in the ears.—Elmer Keith.

MOSSBERG .185-K SHOTGUN

This new Mossberg 20-gauge shotgun has a 26-inch barrel complete with patent choke device and compensator slots milled in each side of barrel to rear of the choke. Gun has detachable magazine of two shell capacity which, with one in chamber, makes it a three-shot gun. It is bolt action with a very handy top safety, moving from right to left, with red and green safety indicator buttons. The trigger guard and front of pistol grip is of moulded plastic.

Having a rather hard trigger pull, this 20 bore handles all commercial loads. Stock is pistol grip with Monte Carlo comb and a very small plastic buttplate which should be nearly an inch longer and at least 3/8 inch wider to better distribute recoil. Stock is well shaped, and the gun balances and handles fast for the first shot.

The 185-K is the slowest of all repeating shotguns to load the magazine or to reload for repeat shots. Gun comes up fast and on the mark, indicating drop of stock is about right—also stock length. It shoots good. We tried it for patterns and on thrown targets. The choke device will give about any spread of pattern within reasonable limits. However, patterns show a considerable number of deformed shot and are seldom very round, as is often true with patent chokes, indicative of the need for more polishing of bore and choke. More turning of the device is necessary to change the choke than on the time-tried Poly-Choke, but it is a very effective device, giving anything from improved cylinder to full choke. Lock time is very fast and snappy.

The gun would be much improved if magazine was made an integral part of the gun and loaded same as the Mauser rifle. It is a good gun that will kill game and teach the youngster to kill with his first shot. He will seldom be able to get in a second shot at one rise of birds, but he should be able to handle them nicely when they rise one at a time. We consider it a very good gun to start a youngster with, and the price is less than $29.00.—Elmer Keith.

RECOIL STARTS BEFORE BULLET LEAVES

I read an article in a small magazine which stated that the kick of a gun does not come until after the bullet leaves the muzzle, hence can cause no disturbance to the shooting of the piece.

Have I been shooting all these years—about 42—only to find that all I have learned was wrong? Why did I spend all those hours bedding the barrels of all the guns I have played with? Why do I have to be so careful as to where and what I rest the gun on when I shoot from the bench? In other words, do I start all over?—Lester L. Cox, Warren, Ohio.

Answer by General Hatcher: As soon as a bullet starts forward in a gun barrel, the gun starts back. The bullet, being much lighter than the gun, moves forward much faster than the gun moves backward, but by the time the bullet reaches the muzzle of the gun the gun has received a backward impulse that causes the kick. This does cause the bullet to land higher on the target than it otherwise would, and the effect is compensated for by the height of the front sight.

However, it is not so much the recoil of the gun that causes inaccuracy as it is the barrel vibration, and it is on account of its effect on barrel vibration that the bedding of a rifle is such an important factor in shooting.

LOOSE MAUSER BOLT

I have a 98 Mauser rifle which I would li to convert to a sporter for deer hunting. T problem is with the bolt. It fits rath loosely, not being the one made for the actio

Can you favor me with a workable answ to this situation?—Hugo H. Larsson, Brid port, Conn.

Answer by Al Barr: The looseness of a b in an action means nothing providing it h proper headspace. All Mauser bolts are lo in the action, especially when they are wi drawn to the rear as far as possible. Have gunsmith with proper headspace gauges che your rifle and if the headspace is OK go ahe and use it. You could even convert it to sporter.

CASE EXPANSION

To the discussion of Mauser barrel thro and headspace in "Ricochets" (July), som thing might be added about the matter fired case expansion back at the head. A noticeable bulge at that point is usu ascribed by amateur gun experts as due too much headspace. Of course there is direct connection whatever, but the mista impression seems to be widespread.

In a general way, there is too much e phasis being put on the matter of close cha bering. Many gun users object to the slight expansion of fired cases, particularly at head. They fail to consider that there lot of difference in different makes of am nition as to dimensions. One case of posed sloppy chambering in a .220 Swi recently called to my notice—faded out when a change in ammunition was made. ammunition originally used showed .005 expansion, which looked bad. Another l of ammunition showed only .0015 inch pansion, which was certainly not exce The difference was in original case dimens and nowhere else. The barrel owner re understood that a chamber small enough show no expansion on the small size tridges would not have accepted the l cartridges at all.—Frederick W. Becr Pittsburgh, Pa.

.45-70 AMMO

Please tell me if it is O.K. to use .45-70-405 and .45-70-500 ammunition Springfield .45-70 Model 1873 rifle in good condition.—Jack Barnes, Win Salem, North Carolina.

Answer by Elmer Keith: Yes, it is safe t either the carbine load of 55 grains of powder and the 405-grain bullet or th fantry load of 500-grain bullet and 70 g of black powder in any .45-70 trap Springfield in good condition. I have thousands of both in both the rifle and bine.

LIGHT LOADS

I use 6½ grains of 4759 powder with a 65-grain bullet in a .250-3,000 Savage. The penetration and velocity are satisfactory, but why is it that all the powder does not burn? A large part of it stays in the barrel or dribbles out the end, while some gets back into the action. This unburned powder retains its original shape, but turns a color of creamy white.

Why is the outside neck of my cartridge case smudged and black after discharge? Otherwise it is in perfect shape.—ROBERT KOLSBUN, Philadelphia, Penna.

Answer by Al Barr: You are not using enough No. 4759 powder with the light bullet to make the powder burn uniformly. All you need to do is to increase the charge or increase the bullet weight. Frankly, for the light load you are using, I would suggest 4 to 5 grains of Hercules Unique, which is a powder that will burn cleaner in very light charges. Even heavier loads of 4759 do not always burn cleanly.

The outside of your cases are smudged because the light powder charge doesn't create enough pressure to expand the case neck to fit the chamber and make a perfect seal.

DRAG OF BULLET

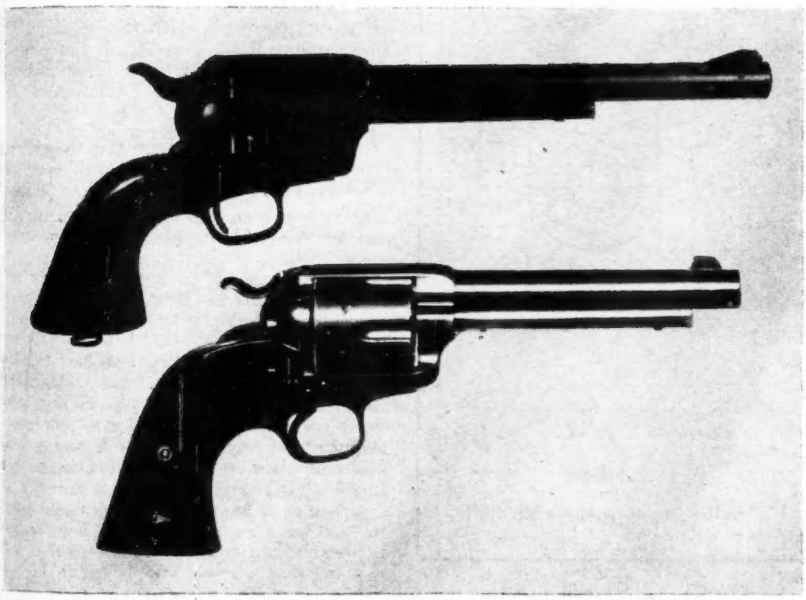
Do you have any information concerning the drag coefficient of a 150-grain .30-'06 bullet?—JOHN F. QUINLAN, Midway Park, N. C.

Answer by General Hatcher: The force on the .30-'06 bullet tending to reduce its velocity is equivalent to about 1.4 pounds push on the nose of the bullet during the first 100 yards of its flight.

This drag or backward push on the bullet depends on several different things. One is the diameter of the bullet; the greater the diameter the greater the air resistance. Another is the speed of the bullet; the higher the speed, the greater the resistance. Thus, for a bullet speed of 800 feet, the resistance would be four times as great as for a bullet speed of 400 feet. For speeds below the velocity of sound the push varies about as the square of the speed, but when the velocity of sound is reached the push increases much more rapidly with increase in velocity.

Another factor that affects the retardation or backward push on the nose of the bullet is the shape of the point. A sharp-pointed bullet has less retardation than a blunt one.

When you consider that the .30-caliber 150-grain bullet weighs only about 1/47th of a pound, you can see that a 1½-pound constant push on that bullet would affect it very considerably. The bullet takes about ⅛ second to go its first 100 yards, and during that small interval the push on its nose reduces its velocity by something like 236 feet per second.



Colt Frontier model (top) differs from Bisley model (below) in shape of grips and hammer spur

BISLEY MODEL COLT

Several of my friends and I would like to know the difference between the Colt Bisley Model and a Colt Frontier Model.—L. E. WHITMER, Ridgway, Pennsylvania.

Answer by Elmer Keith: The Bisley Model has a wide trigger, a big trigger guard, a low wide hammer, and the grip is long, with far too much drop or down curve, making it difficult to point the gun as the barrel lines up far too low. The screws in the top of the back strap are inside on the Bisley and at the extreme top on the outside on the single-action Army. Also, the stock is square at its junction with frame in the single-action Army and only a top strap flare covers it at top next to hammer. The Bisley has a peculiar curve cut in the top forward edge of the stock. The Bisley was never popular in the West because it doesn't point right.

PERCUSSION REVOLVER LOADS

I'm getting a Colt Model 1849 percussion revolver with a 4-inch barrel. It's in very good shape and refinished, so says the catalog. I don't care to cast my own bullets, so can I use any of the commercial stuff that's on the market? If so, what caliber should I order?

What type black powder should I use—FG, FFG, or FFFG, and what size cap does the Colt take? What was the loading like—by that I mean how did you go about to load the cylinder without getting your hands blown off? How do you clean a gun that has been fired with black powder? The stuff is tough to get off.

What make and type holster can I use with this Colt?—JOSEPH CLAUSER, Georgetown, Delaware.

Answer by Elmer Keith: If that is really an 1849 pocket pistol you are getting, it should be in .31 caliber. I never had too much luck as to accuracy with .31's—some would shoot, some would not—but I got very fine accuracy from the .36 Navies and the .44 Armies and Dragoons. You can select a size buckshot that is a trifle larger than the mouth of the cylinder, so it will go in very tight. Make up a charge cup from some empty pistol case and file it off until it will hold just enough FFG black powder to almost fill the cylinder, say about 1/16 inch down from level full. Then soak an old felt hat in melted tallow and cut out wads that are slightly oversize after the tallow hardens. You can make a wad cutter from a .32-20 or .32 Long case by filing the front of case thin and sharp. Punch out the primer pocket so a nail can be inserted to punch out the wads after you cut three or four with a mallet on the end of a block of soft pine wood.

Seat one of the greased felt wads on the powder with the finger and then start the buckshot down in the cylinder mouth with the thumb and rotate the cylinder so the ball is under the rammer. Then ram the ball home. It should be large enough to need considerable force to do so and to swage down to fill the chamber mouth tight. Seating it down just below flush compresses the powder properly. After all chambers are so loaded, then seat the caps and be sure they are tight fitting so fire from one will not get under another cap and kick off three chambers at once. You will probably have to fit a higher front sight and the hammer notch may be out of line, necessitating a small rear sight fitted to rear end of barrel as well.

To clean the black powder out of your pistol, take the gun apart and clean with boiling water, and dry and oil it after using. It will shoot clean for a good many shots with the felt wads well greased. The gun should blue well. If it is a good gun it should do nicely for rabbits. I used to lug a 4-inch 1849 pocket Colt in a saddle pocket for killing trapped bobcats and shooting rabbits for trap bait. You will have to have a small holster made to fit the gun. S. D. Myers, El Paso, Texas, can make it for you.

CARTRIDGE CASE LIFE

I am going to build a .219 or a .250 Donaldson and have George Douglas make the barrel. I want to know which of the two is the strongest—the .219 Zipper brass or the 250-3,000 brass. I have a Pacific loading outfit and will do my own reloading. Which brass could be used the most times for reloading?—WILLIAM C. NYE, Glendale, Calif.

Answer by Al Barr: Either of the two cartridges you have in mind uses brass which will stand many reloadings. Cases are a minor part of the cost of having a rifle made up for either varmint or bench-rest shooting. If you want extreme accuracy when you have no wind or bad conditions, then the .219 Donaldson will be your best bet. For long-range shooting at 200 to 300 yards, unquestionably the .250 Donaldson or the Ace, which G. R. Douglas can chamber for, is your best bet. Frankly, I would consider the Ace over the Donaldson in .25 caliber.

ACCURIZING .45

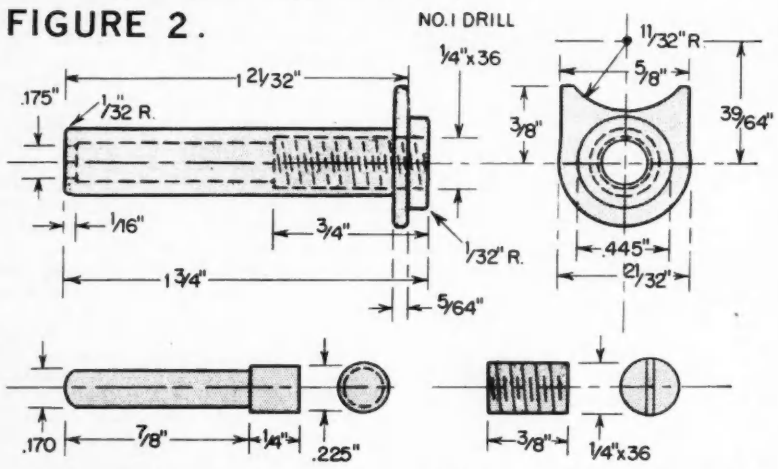
Since publication of "Accurizing the .45" by Dan Dwyer (July, page 31), numerous requests have been received asking how the recoil spring guide and recoil leveler, drawings for which appeared in Figure 2 on page 31, should be assembled.

It now appears that the drawing of the recoil spring guide failed to indicate clearly that the .175-inch hole extends only 1/16 inch through the smaller end, and that the recoil leveler is fitted to move back and forth through the remaining portion of the hole through the center of the guide.

A view of the assembly of these parts is published here, with a corrected version of Figure 2, to show clearly how the recoil spring guide, recoil leveler, buffer spring, and screw fit together.

Assembly (above) of recoil spring guide and recoil leveler, spring, and screw. Working drawings of these parts are shown below

FIGURE 2.



Make one each, harden, draw blue and one 1½" Buffer Spring-number 8 (.020") Music Wire, 17 turns, ⅛" Mandrel.

.300 SAVAGE LOADS

Will you suggest .300 Savage loads with latest components for the model 99 rifle using 110-, 150-, and 180-grain bullets that will duplicate factory loadings?

I have trouble with powder blowing back around the case when using HiVel No. 2 and No. 3031 with different weight bullets.

The headspace of the rifle is O.K.—HARRY E. ASTON, Jr., Salem, Oregon.

Answer by Al Barr: Quite frequently an oversized chamber and mild loads will cause powder gases to come back along side the cartridge case and blacken the necks. That, however, does no harm whatsoever.

You are using the best powders obtainable for the .300 Savage. I would think 4198 would be a good one for the lighter bullets. Maximum powder charge with the 110-grain bullet is 40 grains, which gives 3045 feet a second; with the 150-grain bullet it is 35.5 grains, which gives 2600 feet a second. With No. 3031 and the light bullet, maximum powder charge is 45 grains, which gives 2915 feet a second. With the 150-grain bullet, maximum is 41 grains, which gives 2565 feet a second. With the 180-grain bullet, maximum charge of 3031 is 40 grains, which gives 2450 feet a second. I couldn't suggest any better loads, except to recommend that you start 2 grains under these listed, because they are near maximum for the .300 Savage.

TWIST FOR .257 ROBERTS

Can you tell me what rifling twist would give the best accuracy with 100-grain bullets in a rifle chambered for the .257 Roberts cartridge? With that twist, what results could I expect with 60-, 87-, and 117-grain bullets? —WILBUR BOETTCHER, Anoka, Minnesota.

Answer by General Hatcher: The proper twist for the Roberts with any bullet between 95 and 120 grains weight would be 1 turn in 12 inches. Bullets over that weight would require a twist of 1 turn in 10 inches.

A twist of 1 turn in 12 would be O.K. with the 60- and 87-grain bullets also, but a twist of 1 turn in 14 inches would be preferable for the lighter bullets unless you plan to use the heavy bullets in the same gun.

Remember that a slow twist, such as is best for a short bullet, will not stabilize a long bullet. On the other hand, a rather sharp twist, which is suitable for a long bullet, will also stabilize a short bullet. Of course, if you are going to use all of these bullets, the twist to use is 1 turn in 12 inches.

MIXED PARTS ON ENFIELD

Some time ago I received a 5-land Remington-Enfield in nice condition, but I noticed the bolt was stamped with a 'W', which I take to mean that the part is of Winchester make. If it is a substitution, is this a common practice with DCM rifles or might it have been a mistake?

How high can the headspace be on these serviceable Enfields?

How does the groove diameter of the 5-land barrels compare with the diameter of the average commercial bullet?—L. H. EMRICK, Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Answer by Elmer Keith: Many DCM rifles have new bolts fitted to them to correct headspace. At Ogden Arsenal during the war we rebarreled thousands of rifles and very often substituted bolts to get correct headspace. I tried to hold headspace of those I rechambered, or fitted barrels to, to exactly 1.943, as long experience proved that a rifle with the minimum headspace of 1.940 would often freeze in rapid fire. Field gauges run from 1.940 minimum to 1.950 maximum, but I would never tolerate any .30-'06 that went over 1.946 inch. For finest accuracy, 1.943 inch is best. With good brass you can often get away with excessive headspace, but fine accuracy seldom results.

The Enfields I slugged and miked usually ran from .310- to .313-inch groove diameter. The wide, heavy 5-land barrels displace a lot of bullet metal. In the Spring I have recovered M1 boattails from snow drifts where I had shot them during the winter and have often found some of the lead core extruded back out of the rear end of the jacket, showing the displacement which takes place in 5-land barrels. Don't worry about the groove diameter of an Enfield barrel being slightly over standard for the 1903 Springfield as some place is needed for the metal to go when the heavy wide lands cut into the bullet.

MODEL 92 CONVERSION

What is the strength of the Winchester 92 and the Winchester 73 actions in pounds per square inch?

Could the model 92 action be safely rebarreled to .218 Bee without heattreating? My gunsmith says yes, and has done it, but I say it is unsafe.

I have a Winchester low-wall No. 45-25 with nickel-plated action (looks original). Could I safely rebarrel it to .22 Hornet, .22 WRF, or .25-20 Special if the action were re-heattreated, the firing pin bushed, and new pins fitted in the action?—DONALD G. LINKE, Chicago, Illinois.

Answer by Al Barr: General working pressure for safe loads for the model 92 Winchester is considered to be under 40,000 pounds. I wouldn't say the action will not handle higher pressure, but that is the safe working level. As far as the model 73 goes, it was developed for low-pressure loads and made of a mild steel. Therefore, the pressure level for it would be much lower—my guess would be 30,000 pounds or less.

The model 1892 has been rebarreled to .218 Bee caliber. It all depends on how late a model 92 Winchester you have. If it is one of the early types, I would not recommend barreling it for the Bee. If it has a high serial number, your gunsmith is absolutely right in saying it is safe.

Your low-wall Winchester will definitely handle the .22 Hornet. I have used a number of them and have had no trouble with them. You will not need to have the action re-heattreated, but you will probably have to have the firing pin rebushed so that you will not get punctured primers with the higher pressure developed by the Hornet cartridge. You will have to use reduced loads in the .22 Hornet if you want to use it for small game.

CORRECTION

The bluing formula given in Al Barr's reply to Mr. James H. Curnow's statement (August, page 43) of the problems in bluing his guns is incorrect, and its use will not result in a good finish on a rifle or shotgun. The quantities of sodium nitrate and sodium hydroxide used in the mixture were transposed. The correct formula should have been:

17 ounces of sodium hydroxide
65 ounces of sodium nitrate
4 ounces of sodium nitrite
1 gallon of water

Put the bright steel into the mixture of these ingredients at about a temperature of 285 degrees F. and let it boil to around 295 degrees F. or more.

REMINGTON PUMP ACTION RIFLE

I have never seen any comment on the Remington high-power pump rifle, model 141, .30, .32 or .35 caliber, with 18½ and 24 inch barrels. How does it compare with other high-power rifles, such as .30-'06 Springfield, etc., for our western game such as deer, elk and bear? — O. B. Tully, Port Angeles, Washington.

Answer by Elmer Keith: The old Remington model 14 or the new 141 in .35 caliber Remington is one of the best little brush guns extant for deer and black bear at reasonable ranges up to 200 yards, but it is too light for elk to my notion. In the smaller calibers I do not care for it. It is then just another .30-30 for all practical purposes. In the .35 Remington caliber it is a peach of a rifle for deer and black bear. I have seen far better average results from the .35 Remington on deer and bear than I have from the .30 '06 at all times.

WADS AND PRESSURE

I have used .046-inch IPCO wads in nearly all of my hunting and varmint reloads in .30-'06, .270, .257, .22-250, and now the 222 Remington.

I have stayed from 2 to 4 grains under maximum charges, but is that enough for safe loads? I've never seen any definite information concerning pressures and velocities while using wads, but I have had good accuracy and believe that the wads are a big help in keeping a bore in good condition.—Paul Seidel, Glen Elder, Kansas.

Answer by Al Barr: If you will think for a moment, you can readily realize why using wads in a given load will result in higher pressure than when using the same load without wads. The graphite wad takes up air space in the case, thus increasing load density. That makes no difference whatsoever so long as you stay under maximum loads. It could make a difference if you used an extreme maximum load without wads and then included the wad in the load. Usually, depending on case size, at least ½ or 1 grain less powder is recommended when using wads if the load is near maximum.

RCBS BULLETMAKING PRESS

Fred Huntington's RCBS Gun and Die Shop, 1365-7th Avenue, Oroville, California, is starting production of a new reloading and bulletmaking press. The one we examined at the Seattle Snipers match incorporates many new features, very worthwhile to all handloaders. It has a collet type of case holder which grips the case head all around and more firmly than conventional shell holders. The

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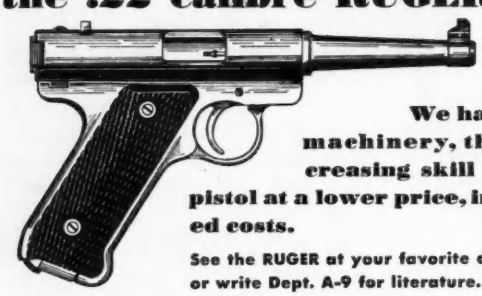

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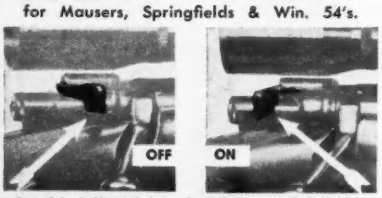

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COMPRESSED POWDER CHARGE

In the October '49 issue, under "Loads for the .250 Savage," you list 40.5 grains of No. 4350 behind a 100-grain MGS bullet seated .25 inches as a good load. I find the only way I can seat the bullet with this charge in a once-fired Peters case is by crushing the powder. Since this seems a dangerous situation, I hesitate to try this load. Will you please tell me how you do it? — JOSEPH ENGLES, New York City, N. Y.

Answer by Al Barr: When using a slow-burning powder such as 4350 in a small-capacity case such as the .250 Savage, compressing the powder and leaving no air space is not a dangerous proposition. However, if you were using a fast-burning powder, compressing it would be dangerous. Pressure figures indicate as much.

When I use 4350 in small capacity cases I actually sift the powder in the case rather than dump it from a powder measure, so as to get more in. I do this in the .250 Savage when using 4350 and I also do it in other calibers. You will note that with the 40.5 grain load, pressure is only 44,860 pounds, which gives you plenty of leeway even though the powder charge is compressed.

RECHAMBERING SHORT CHAMBERED GUNS

In the July RIFLEMAN, I advised rechambering an L.C. Smith standard 2-¾-inch, 12 bore to Magnum 12 rather than using Magnum 3-inch shells in short chambers. Since then, Mr. T. R. Robinson Jr., of the Marlin Firearms Co., has written me telling that their standard lightweight L. C. Smith 12 bore with 2-¾-inch chambers is too thin in the barrels at the forcing cone to permit rechambering to the Magnum 12, 3-inch case without seriously weakening the barrels below the safety point. While they definitely do not recommend shooting a 3-inch shell in a 2-¾ inch, they would have the user do that rather than to rechamber the light Smith guns, as the barrels are ground down too thin at the point where the forcing cone would start in a 3-inch chamber and they do not so rechamber their own guns.

We get many letters from owners of fine English and Continental guns asking about rechambering the short 2-½-inch chambers to 2-¾ inch, and some of these guns have enough metal thickness in the barrels to permit rechambering. But far too many of the light foreign guns are already very thin in the barrels at the start of the forcing cone and to rechamber them is to ruin them, as the steel is then too thin to take the normal pressures of 2-¾-inch American loads. Most American 12 bores with thick, heavy barrels can be safely rechambered from 2-¾ inch to 3 inch, and some of the fine English and Continental shotguns also have ample metal for rechambering from 2 inch or 2-½ inch to 2-¾ inch, but alas a great many are all far too thin in the barrel.

We should have asked Mr. Richard Grawicy to write L. C. Smith about such a

chambering before recommending it. We have recommended that many owners of the foreign lightweight guns have a competent gunsmith measure the barrels and see if there is enough metal to permit rechambering them from the short English and Continental chambers to our standard 2-¾ inch. The same procedure should be applied whenever anyone desires to convert a standard chambered American gun to 3-inch Magnum 12. Many Remington heavy autos and Browning autos have been successfully rechambered to Magnum 12 bore by Arthur Kovalovsky, and many gunsmiths have so rechambered other makes of standard 12 bores when the barrel walls were thick enough to permit adequate proof loads and safety. Too light a gun should never be rechambered from standard 12 to Magnum 12 as recoil will be excessive. Likewise, all chamber length in any foreign gun should be checked before firing it with American loads.

L. C. Smith feels it far safer to shoot a Magnum 12-bore shell in their 2-¾ inch chambered gun than to rechamber these guns to Magnum 12. However, neither they nor this writer ever recommend long shells in short chambers, and anyone shooting Magnum 12 bore ammunition in a standard chambered gun, or cutting the shells between powder and shot charge, is absolutely on his own and he is asking for trouble in many cases. Modern shotgun loads develop up to 10,000 pounds pressure, which is nothing to fool with, especially with a thin barrel wall at the point where pressures are probably highest, in the forcing cone just in front of the chamber.—ELMER KEITH.

WINCHESTER S.S. FOR 2-R LOVELL

I would like to know if I can rebarrel a Winchester high-wall action to .22-3,000? Part of the right wall has been milled away to permit easier loading of .22 long rifle cartridges. The part cut off is approximately 1-7/16 by 3/8 inch. The wall thickness is .120 inch.—AXEL R. NORDSTROM, Huntington Station, N. Y.

Answer by Al Barr: I'd let a gunsmith make the final decision on whether or not to rebarrel that Winchester to 2-R Lovell, but I personally think it would be quite satisfactory. In fact, even the low-wall Winchester with no supporting sides at all has been rebarreled for the 2-R Lovell though we do not recommend it.

The action you have is different, however. It will probably give adequate support of the breechblock for this particular cartridge. Back thrust is not so great because of the small diameter of the cartridge. It would be a different story if you were going to use a cartridge of much larger diameter where the back thrust, which is in relation to the square of the head area, would be greater.

BULLET LUBRICANT

This might be old stuff but some of us on the West Coast have been looking for a new lead bullet lubricant. Of several variations tried we found this to be about the best: Equal parts of heavy automobile gear grease, beeswax and parowax. Melt it together in a can and stir well. As needed the mixture is warmed up enough to flow and to pour into the sizer and lubricator, leaving enough room to put the plunger in the top.—H. J. FULLER, Los Angeles, California.

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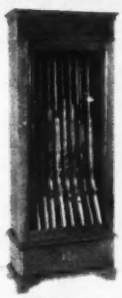

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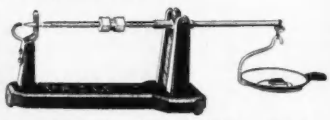

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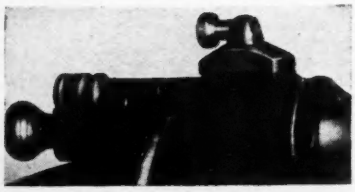

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LOADS FOR THE .44-40

I would like to get some information on sixgun loads for the .44-40 Single Action. I bought Keith's book *Sixgun Cartridges & Loads*, but it didn't have the information I want.

I note his preference for the .44 Special but the .44-40 is a sort of standard in this country and .44 Special brass is few and far between.—ROBERT L. BROOKS, British Columbia, Canada.

Answer by Elmer Keith: I never worked out a bullet form or did much with the .44-40 because all the sixguns I have owned of that caliber expanded the cases nearly to the muzzle; all had chambers over the body of the case which were much longer than the body of the shell. This entailed hard resizing after each shot. For this reason, I consider the .44-40 the poorest of all big sixgun loads for the handloader.

The chambers of the cylinder being larger than the .44 Special, are very thin; hence the .44-40 will not stand near as much pressure as will the .44 Special.

I would recommend 18 grains of Hercules 2400 for the .44-40 with the 200-grain bullet either cast or factory soft point. Some have used 20 grains but I am a bit leery of overloading that thin cylinder. You can also load 7½ grains of DuPont No. 6 or 8.5 grains of No. 5 Pistol Powder.

COYOTE CALL

I have just read Keith's Dope Bag reply to William A. Letson, Red Cloud, Nebraska (page 57, June), on the use of a commercial caller for calling up coyotes. I have never seen one of the commercial callers, but it may possibly be interesting to you to know that the use of such a device, home-made, is becoming fairly well known among a group of riflemen in the ranching country of northwest Texas.

I first learned about the practice in Shackelford and Throckmorton counties back in the '30s. It was then a closely guarded secret, the original caller having been brought in by an old Mexican sheep herder, who practically broke the bounty bank at Albany, using this caller and a .32-20 single shot. As the story went, he gave a caller to a friend in Albany before his death. So much may be legend.

I have since examined several of the callers all with the same history. Actually, construction of the caller is quite simple, tuning being the difficult part. Some tune it by ear by listening to a crippled rabbit squeal. It is made from the tip of a cowhorn, a wooden plug carefully fitted, and a reed made from a brass cartridge case.

What follows will sound like a lot of bosh if you are unfamiliar with the use of this device. Actually, I have gone to considerable trouble to investigate the history of the practice. It is a very old one, having been used for centuries by Polish game keepers for calling lynx. Further, my training and profession demands that I be objective, and more critical than the ordinary hunter. Anyway—

Warden Boynton of Quanah, Texas has pens to work in one of the coyote-hunting districts in Texas, along the breaks of the Pease and Wichita rivers. He called up and killed 148 coyotes in 1948. In 1949 he killed 192 coyotes. His top kill was 13 in one day and on one occasion his call from one stand brought 7 coyotes running to the dinner. Needless to say, he didn't kill all these.

Coyotes apparently are able to hear the call for about a mile, so it is not uncommon to have coyotes rush you from different directions. They show a remarkable sense of direction, and while some are cautious, most come at a dead run. Of course, the lure is the possibility of sharing a jackrabbit.

Apparently, the call works best in large open ranges where human disturbance is minimum. For two years I have been down here in a wornout, thickly settled part of the west Texas dross timbers, where the red wolf (*Canis niger*) is making a come-back after having been judged extinct a couple decades ago. He lives among peanut farming nesters, dogs, and on good chicken meat from back yards. I have never been able to raise one of these with a caller.

Bobcats come to the caller too, but are most uncertain. Mostly, the 'cat comes slowly, growling about every lump of sugar. He may come up from behind you. On one occasion I gave up my efforts at one location and started back to my horse, only to find one calmly sitting looking me over. One of my friends had a cat leap over him when, in good cover, he bleated at an inopportune time. He missed the cat.—A. S. Jackson, Wildlife Biologist, Alvord, Texas.

.375 H&H LOADS

Owen A. Boyer, Burlington, Indiana, has used the .375 H&H Magnum extensively in this country and in Africa. He has found that some jacketed bullets in this caliber do not penetrate as well as they should, so he has developed several interesting loads using lead-alloy bullets, namely, the Ideal 375449 weighing 268 grains and the 375166 weighing 320 grains. Cast of 90-5-5 alloy, extremely heavy loads have been developed. Those which Mr. Boyer found to be O. K. in his rifle went as high as 57 grains of 4064 behind the 268-grain bullet. He used even as much as 60 grains with the heavy 320-grain plain-base bullet. Bullets are lubricated with Ideal lubricant and after they are seated in the cases they are painted with Aquadag, a preparation of water and graphite.

Mr. Boyer suggests that others interested in these loads start with a much lower powder charge and work up to avoid stripping and metal fouling.—Al. Barr.

REMOVING DIRT FROM RIFLE BORES

An aggravating and sometimes dangerous thing is getting dirt, grit, or snow in your rifle bore by dropping your rifle or sticking the muzzle into a hillside while climbing. This happens to everyone, at one time or another, and if you are caught without a cleaning rod you will likely utter a few harsh words.

A good way to clear the bore is to shake or blow out as much as possible, blow through the bore from breech to muzzle, and then fire a cartridge minus bullet and powder. The primer explosion will do the trick perfectly. It will clear grit, dirt, and sticks or twigs as well as snow, whether the bore is dry or oily, in a perfectly safe manner.

An easy way to unload the cartridge is to insert the bullet in the muzzle as far as it will go and then bend the case slightly in several directions until it slips off the bullet. Be careful or the neck will be too distorted for rechamber.

Being a handloader with a plentiful supply of cases, I carry half a dozen primed empties in my pocket for use in such emergencies.—John Zlatich, Los Angeles, Calif.

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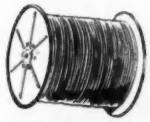

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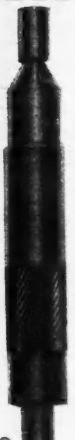

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LONGER SHOTGUN FORCING CONES

In the April RIFLEMAN you stated that shotguns would be better today if they had a much less abrupt forcing cone. What angle would you recommend for a 12-gauge double?

Will this make the gun shoot more choke and a more uniform pattern?—J. WEBSTER CLARK, Norborne, Missouri.

Answer by Elmer Keith: Present forcing cones are very short. A much longer taper, say 1 inches, from the end of chamber to bore proper (which should run around .729 inch) would be much better and would deform less shot. The more shot you get past the forcing cone in perfect condition, the better will be the patterns.

A long cone will have no effect whatever on the choke of the gun, but it will deform less pellets and will usually give from 3 per cent to as much as 15 percent higher percentages, depending on how well the cone is finished in the final polishing, which should be by draw boring rather than on a lathe.

.22 HORNET LOADS

I am having some trouble loading for a .22 Hornet. I loaded 11.5 grains of No. 2400 with a .223-inch Sierra bullet seated .13 inch. It cracked the cases right at the head. In looking over a new Ideal Handbook, I noticed a warning that 9.7 is a maximum load with a 45-grain bullet, yet I notice in your tests you used 10.3 grains with a 46-grain bullet. Do you use current brass, which is heavier, or the older cases? Other shooters have had trouble with the same load. Are these loads safe in a 43 Winchester with the new, heavy brass?—R. D. JOHNS, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Answer by Al Barr: When a cartridge case breaks in two circularly around the solid head it is a definite sign of excessive headspace. Heavy loads will exaggerate the condition. I couldn't tell you whether 11.5 grains of No. 2400 with the bullet you are using is excessive or not. It does sound like a very heavy load unless you are using a 40-grain bullet. I would not use such a load with a 45-grain bullet in the straight Hornet case.

You will find that 10.5 grains of 2400 with 45-grain bullets is maximum for safe pressure levels. When you go as high as you have you have probably increased headspacing in your rifle.

LOADS FOR .38 SUPER AUTO

In the April RIFLEMAN, page 62, you suggested sizing the bullet of a load for the Super Semiautomatic Colt pistol to .001 over bore diameter. I have not been able to find anyone who knows the bore diameter.

What other bullets besides No. 360 can be used? I would like a couple for target work and one for hunting (perhaps hollow point). What velocity might I expect with the various bullets and recommended loads? — WAYNE FISK, Sterling, Kansas.

Answer by Elmer Keith: The groove diameter of the .38 Super Colt Auto usually runs around .356 inch, never over .358.

One of the best bullets for the .38 Super Colt is the Ideal 358242 weighing 125 grains, cast rather hard—about 1 to 16 or 1 to 20 tin and lead. Use 4 grains of Bullseye or 5 grains of No. 5 for a velocity of 1,100 fps. I do not know of a suitable hollow-point as for perfect functioning these handguns are critical as to bullet nose shape and velocity on account of the recoil spring.

NEW PRODUCTS

4X Leupold Pioneer scope with enlarged objective and ocular ends is being manufactured by Leupold & Stevens Instruments, Inc., 4445 N. E. Glisan St., Portland 13, Oregon. According to the manufacturer, the scope weighs only eight ounces and the tube diameter is ⅞ inch. Overall length is 11-⅜ inches. Diameter of the eyepiece tube is 1½ inches and diameter of the objective tube is 1-⅜ inches. A very large field for a four power scope (35 feet at 100 yards) is listed for the new Pioneer. The price is $57.50.

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GUNSMITHING, by Roy F. Dunlap,

800 pages, 200 illustrations. **Price $7.50**

THOMAS G. SAMWORTH, Georgetown 7, S. C.

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE . . AT ANY PRICE . . for

BLU-BLAK

The famed gun-bluing process that gives you everything . . . the most beautiful color, with maximum depth . . . and long-wearing service . . . all at a right price. You pay for BLU-BLAK quality . . . BE SURE YOU GET IT. * * *

The GUN SHOP OWNER who is content with a second- or third-rate metal BLACKING process sacrifices prestige for mediocrity . . . for a few pennies saved. His customers PAY for what they do NOT get . . . THE BEST.

Make it your business to see that they DO get what they pay for . . . the best . . . BLU-BLAK. It costs you less in the end. The LYNX is the symbol for the finest . . . in gun finishing and gun care. * * *

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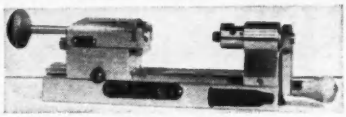

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Trims and deburrs all cases. Has case length scale, bronze bushing, new case holder jaws, other new features. Complete for 5 calibers—.22, .25, .270 .30, and 8mm $14.50

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INLETTED GRIP BLOCKS

Black Walnut blocks for carving your own grips. Inletting practically complete, full instructions with each pair. Screw and escutcheons furnished. Made for all S&W and Colt revolvers. $1.75 per pair——Two pair $3.00.

Stamp brings Free Circular which lists prices completed grips, inletting your wood, etc.

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MEDAL CASES

Genuine Walnut frame beautifully finished. Glass front. Black or Maroon velvet background. Three stock sizes. Priced at $4.25, $5.75 and $7.25, f.o.b. Neenah. Folder on request.

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WHITE TAIL OR COTTON TAIL . . .

you're ON with the NEW 4x TEXAN

Crystal clear . . . dead center in a 28' field at 100 yards . . . crisp as the engraving on a new dollar . . . you're on the mark for every shot with this superb new TEXAN! Independent, ½-minute click adjustments for windage and elevation; safe, 3½ to 4½-inch, non-critical eye relief. Mounts with any standard solid or split-ring mount.

Proud companion to the 2½X TEXAN . . . see these outstanding scopes at your dealer's . . . one of them is YOURS! Or, for full information, write TODAY to Dept. A.

NORMAN-FORD & CO.

1312 West Erwin Street Tyler, Texas

recoil guns. The orthoptic aperture, which is adjustable for windage, utilizes a new principle in that the sides of the peephole are cut away to give an increased field of view as compared with the ordinary type. A mounting plate for inletting into the comb of the stock is supplied with the sight. Price is $9.95 postpaid.

Muzzle attachment which is different from most other muzzle attachments has been produced by S. W. Leonard, 711 Buxton Ave., Martinsburg, West Virginia. Called the Super-Shooter Rifle Muzzle Attachment, it is not designed to cut down or reduce recoil but to increase velocity with standard loads without increasing pressure. Velocity tests so far have proven that even with factory loads in a .270, a slight increase of velocity occurs. With 150-grain .270 factory loads, the increase in velocity at 60 feet was approximately 25 feet a second. With a 130-grain, it was around 45 feet a second; with a light handload and 100-grain bullet, an increase of 100 feet a second was noted.

Essentially, the Super Shooter is a piece of steel, weighing about 4 ounces and 2½ inches long, threaded to the muzzle end of the barrel. There are no vents on the sides. The bore of the Super Shooter is reamed to exact bore dimensions—not groove. After leaving the conventional rifling, the deformed bullet is smoothed out to true bore diameter. So far, using the device with several calibers, accuracy has not been impaired. A slight decrease in recoil seemed to be noted, but it was not accurately measured. Price for the Super Shooter fitted to bolt-action rifles of standard calibers is $14.95.

Weatherby factory loaded ammunition is now available for the line of ultra-Magnum rifles built by Weatherby's Custom Sporting Goods, 8823 Long Beach Blvd., South Gate, California. Doing what no other builder of wildcat rifles has done, Weatherby has available now ammunition or new primed cases for the .257, .270, 7 mm., and .300 Weatherby cartridges. To follow will be cases and ammunition for the .220 Weatherby Rocket and the .375 Weatherby Magnum. Prices per box of 20 rounds of ammunition range from $4.25 to $4.95, depending on the caliber.

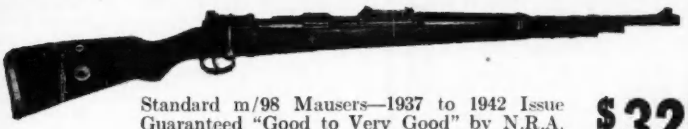
William H. Sutton, 214 Royal Parkway, East Buffalo 21, N. Y., sells for $7.00 blueprints and full instructions for the construction of electrically-operated target devices for pistol ranges. The device will automatically time and control the appearance and disappearance of pistol targets for slow, timed, and rapid fire stages with a push of the button. The device has been installed and used successfully on ranges in Wilkinsburg, Penna., and Buffalo, N. Y.

E. C. Bishop & Sons of Warsaw, Mo., makes some beautiful and useful extension fore-ends for the model 12 Winchester, model 10 Remington, and other pump shotguns. In addition, they make exceptionally nice full fore-ends for all autoloading shotguns. The shop also does considerable custom stock work for those wanting fine or fancy jobs.

Leon P. Fisher, custom loader, formerly of Presidio, Texas, informs us that he is now

(Continued on page 76)

8-MM MAUSER MILITARY RIFLES



Standard m/98 Mausers—1937 to 1942 Issue Guaranteed "Good to Very Good" by N.R.A. standards. *All parts milled.* A complete rifle easily converted to a sporting rifle. F.O.B. Seattle. With selected stock and selected barrel $37.95.

$32.95

We ship pre-paid anywhere in the U.S. for one ($1.00) dollar additional.

8-MM MAUSER CARTRIDGES

Imported 155 gr. metal cased. 100 or more 7½¢ each. Shipped express pre-paid.

BARGAIN CARTRIDGES

Shipped you express pre-paid 100 or more while they last.

25-35 cal: 117 gr. Soft Point—
20 to box ..... $8.95 per 100

30 Rem. cal: 170 gr. S.P. or Sil-Tip—
20 to box ..... $9.50 per 100

NEW HAND GUNS

Hi Standard 380 auto. m/G 380
6 shot—$55.00 value—Pre-paid $29.95

Hi-Standard m/G-B Haminerless
22 LR 4½ or 6¾" bbl., Pre-pd $44.00

As above GB Combination with 2 sets bbls 4½" and 6¾"—Prepaid $54.00

Used HAND GUNS

Prepaid to You

Trades Accepted

9 m/m Walther P-38—Good	$29.50
9 m/m Luger—Good	37.50
38 S & W Mil & Pol Sq Butt 6" Excel.	44.50
38 S & W Mil & Pol Victory 4" good	32.75
22 Colt Off. Model Target—6" Perf.	59.50

WRITE FOR COMPLETE LIST OF USED GUNS

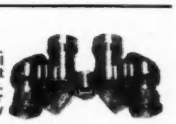
SCOPES AND MOUNTS

All standard makes

Unertl—Lyman—Bausch & Lomb—Weaver—Stith—etc.

Write for gun accessory catalog

6 x 15 COATED
Pocket size—weight 5 oz. Full 6 power, individual focusing, large brilliant field—370 ft. at 1000 yds. Complete with zipper leather case. Price only



Prepaid **$17.95**

ADD 20% FED. TAX. All Binoculars sold on money back guarantee of satisfaction.

BRAUER'S SHEEPSKIN GUN CASES

Full Length Leather-Bound—Prepaid
For rifles less scope ..... $ 9.50
For rifles with scope 10.95
Specify overall length

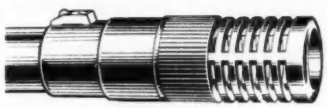
WESTERN TOOL & COPPER WORKS

.30 Cal. 150 gr. C.P. Per C	$4.60
.30 Cal. 172 gr. C.P. Per C	4.80
25 Cal. 100 gr. C.P. Per C	4.00

Add 40¢ Postage Per C

GUN ACCESSORY BARGAINS

	Prepaid
U.S. used A-1 leather slings, 1¼"	$ .98
U.S. New leather slings, 1¼"	1.75
New oiled mil. type, 1¼"	2.45
New oiled mil. type, ⅞" or 1"	1.95
New oiled Whelen type, 1¼"	2.45
New oiled Whelen type, 1"	1.95
Reg. sling swivels, 1" or 1¼" Set	.75
Quick detachable swivels, 1" or 1¼" Set	1.75
U.S. Rubber Recoil Pad & Boot	.49
.30 Cal. 1 pc. Govt. Rifle Rods	.69
Shotgun Take Down Rods, Alum. 12-16-20 ga.	.85
.22 Cal. Take Down Rods, Alum. 3 pc.	.69
Comb. .22 to .45 Cal. Pistol Rod 2 pc. alum. $1.25 value only	.85
Polychoke Gunners Guide Compass	3.00



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Send us your barrel only

Standard Polychoke $14.75
Ventilated Polychoke 18.75

Specify barrel length

One day service. Return parcel post paid

AIR MATTRESSES

Deluxe model—made in Scotland—Attached pillow—Full length—24 x 72—Light weight, only 4½ lbs. Guaranteed—$25.00 value only $12.95

Tubular Type—25 x 72—U.S. made $12.95
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Super Plastic—32 x 73—Light but sturdy. Weight 3 lbs.—Inflate by mouth $7.95
Quilted type—All rubber—Full length—25 x 72 $10.95
All Prices Prepaid

DUCK DOWN & FEATHER Balloon cloth cover. Full separating zipper (two bags can be zipped together). Air mattress pocket. One bag only, 33 x 74 Wt. 8 lbs. **19.95**
(TWO BAGS ..... $37.95) =6012

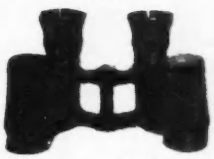
"CHIEF" 100% WOOL FILLED 3 lbs wool filling. Full separating zipper (two bags can be zipped together). Air mattress pocket. Water repellent cover. Wt. 7½ lbs. One bag only, size 34x76 Ppd. **$14.95**
=6013 (Two bags, pp. ..... $27.95)

BINOCULARS PREPAID TO YOU

15 DAYS FREE TRIAL

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

MILITARY TYPE #218-3A



6 Power Hunters—Lightweight 14 oz. 25 m/m objective lens. A sturdy binocular particularly adapted to hunting and all outdoor sports—individual focusing. Large 8° field—445 ft. at 1000 yards. Complete with leather case & straps.

BARGAIN PRICE — $19.95

(Add 20% Fed. Tax)

NEW NAVY 2 PC RAIN SUIT

100% Waterproof—Double Texture Material—Consists of storm parka and storm bibbed overalls—Snag resistant—Wears like iron—Specify size—Medium—Large—Ex. Large.

Prepaid per suit $7.90
Storm parka only 3.95
Storm overalls only 3.95

NEW AIR FORCE Alpaca Lined Pants

Oxford cloth outer—water repellent. Full zipper each leg—complete with suspenders. Medium size fits 32 to 36.

$5.95 Pair Prepaid

B-15 TYPE BOMBER JACKET TO MATCH ABOVE AIR FORCE PANTS. SIZES 36 to 46 PREPAID **$9.95**

New Genuine B-1 Leather Air Force Pants—Sheep lined. Medium size only fits 32" to 36" waists—Prepaid $4.95.

BRAND NEW SLEEPING BAGS

#6010

New "Guide Model" Double Arctic consists of two bags each filled with 10% down and 90% curled feathers. Quilted in downproof fabric. Water repellent balloon cloth outer.

Outer bag 30" x 69". Wt. 4½ lbs.—Full Zip.
Inner bag 27" x 74". Wt. 4¼ lbs.—30" Zip.

Bags may be used separately.

Total weight 8¾ lbs. ..... Prepaid $29.95

Money Back Guarantee!

Featuring the new SEPARATING ZIPPER that allows two single bags to be zipped together to make a large double bag!

#6011

100% DOWN FILLED BAGS
Finest poplin water repellent outer. Full separating zipper (two bags can be zipped together). Air mattress pocket. Size 34x78. Wt. 7 lbs. One bag only **29.95**
(TWO BAGS ..... $57.95) Prepaid

WARSHAL'S SPORTING GOODS CO.

FIRST AND MADISON, DEPT. B — SEATTLE 4, WASH.

NRA ITEMS

MEMBERSHIP BUTTON

New, gold-filled lapel button for NRA annual members. Price includes tax and postage. $1.50

RIFLEMAN BINDER

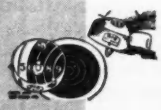
A loose-leaf binder with rich maroon covers, die stamped. Holds a year of THE RIFLEMAN. $2.95

LIFE MEMBER BUTTON

10-K gold button. Emblematic of lifetime membership. Price includes tax and postage. $3.50

UTILITY SCORE PLUG

All-purpose plug gauge with flanges for scoring .22, .32, .38, and .45 shot holes. $1.00



RIG EZE-SCORER

New official plastic plug scorer with 1¼" built-in magnifier. Specify caliber—.22, .38 or .45. $2.00

PENCIL SCORING GAUGE

.22 cal. spring-type scoring gauge with metal case and clip for quick, accurate scoring. $1.50

FELT BRASSARD

Sew this 3-color felt brassard on your shooting jacket. Specify your NRA membership status. $.50

Order From

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

SCOTT CIRCLE, WASH 6, D. C.

HEADSPACE GAUGES

BEST INSURANCE FOR PEACE OF MIND! With so much at stake it is folly to buy "cheap" gauges. Only the very best are good enough! Super accuracy here means your own safety! Available in "go", "no-go" and "field" lengths, in cals. .222 Rem.; 30-'06; .270; 8mm; .257 Rob.; 7mm; 300 Sav.; .250 Sav.; 220 Swift and 22-250 at $3.75 each gauge or any three for $10.00, postpaid. Cals. 300 Mag.; .218 Bee and 22 Hornet 30-40 Krag; .219 Zipper; $2.75 each or any four for $10.00. Immediate delivery.

STOCK INLETTING GUIDE SCREWS for Springfield; Krag; Mauser; Enfield; Remington 720; 721—722; Winchester 70 and 54, Jap 6.5, 7.7, 50c each or any three for $1.00, postpaid.

GUARD SCREWS for Springfield, Enfield (std. or straight guard), Krag and Mauser, 60c a pair. Lock screw type for Mauser (4 screws), $1.25, postpaid.

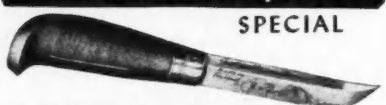
6-48 FILISTER HEAD SCREWS hardened and color cased, available in ¼"; 5/16"; ⅜"; 7/16" and ½" lengths. 60c per dozen, any assortment, postpaid.

Gunsmith and Dealer Inquiries Invited.

FORSTER BROTHERS, Lanark, Ill.

Norm Thompson

SPECIAL



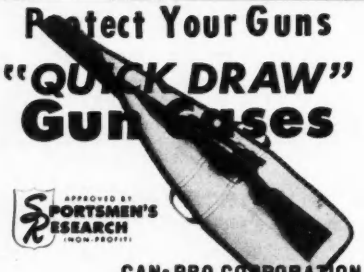
AMAZING VALUE. Handsome hunting knife you'll be proud to own. Imported from Finland. Lifetime file-steel engraved blade. Beautiful bird's eye Maple handle. Hand-tooled leather sheath. Send today—only **$3.95.**

WRITE FOR FREE HUNTING CATALOG

Norm Thompson, Field and Stream Outfitter
2728-A, S.E. LAURELWOOD, PORTLAND 22, ORE.

Protect Your Guns

"QUICK DRAW" Gun Cases



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ASK YOUR DEALER OR GUNSHOP

CAN-PRO CORPORATION
FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN

Money Back Guar.

8x30—$33 Illustrated

8 x 30 PRISM BINOCULARS

Precision Optics BRAND NEW

Sent postage prepaid With Coated optics **$33***

Combines high power with finest optical performance, compactness and a wide field of view. Light in weight. Strong aluminum alloy frame. 4 x 5½ in. Wgt. 19 oz. Fine leather case and straps. 15 days free trial.

*Add 20% Federal Tax. Price list other sizes free.

PRENTISS IMPORTERS 215-218 Mercury Bldg. West Los Angeles, Calif.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO OWN THIS BEAUTIFUL SPORTER?

If it's class you like in a rifle, then write for our list of services and prices on custom made rifles in Target, Bench Rest, Medium Weight Sporter or Featherweight Sporter. We install FREE OF CHARGE any scope that is sold by us. All makes of scopes and mounts available.

HOLTZ GUN & SPORTING GOODS
403 Magee Ave., Patton, Pa. Fone 5261

(Continued from page 74)

moved to other quarters to take care of custom load orders. His new address is 801 E. Holland Ave., Alpine, Texas.

Laffoley & Ruggles, 387 Franklin St., Melrose, Massachusetts, have available six historical prints of famous Colt handguns. These beautiful prints, reproductions of the set put out some years ago, of famous Colt handgun models date from the Model 1836 Patterson through the Model 1873 Colt Peacemaker. Eleven by fourteen inches in size, the complete set lists at $2.00.

Hagen Engineering, 5211 S. Monitor Ave., Chicago 38, Illinois, operated by Rudolf A. Hagen, who has had considerable gunsmithing experience, has designed many practical tools for the gun maker, particularly for stock work. Hagen has a scoring tool, a set of cutters, and checkering tools, all interchangeable on a single handle. Of unique design, the new checkering set includes a sharpening block. Included also is a set of five interchangeable scrapers of different shapes which are very useful for the final inletting of a gunstock. All these items—checkering tools, gouges and scrapers—may be fitted with a single screw in the bent shank of the handle. We find every one of these items quite practical.

James E. Serven, P. O. Box 1777, Santa Ana, California, lists a number of interesting items for the collector in his latest brochures. One is a complete file (30 issues) of the Gun Report magazine, which was published from November 1939 to April 1942, in a loose-leaf binder with all Gun Reports monographs, for $9.75. Parts list No. 29 contains numerous parts and accessories for collectors items and muzzleloaders, including bullet moulds, powder flasks, locks, hammers, flints, and nipples. Parts for Remington 1858 percussion pistols, Colt 1851 and 1860 percussions pistols, Colt single actions, Colt Model 1861 rifle, and .45 caliber Springfields are also available from Serven.

Mershon Company, Inc. have notified us of a change of address. This company, which manufactures many excellent shooters supplies, is now located at 511 Commercial Street, Glendale 3, California.

Mandel Custom Loads, Willow River, Minnesota, can now furnish to handgun users cast gascheck bullets designed by Ray C. Thompson. They are available in .38, .357 and .44 Special calibers, and all are hollow pointed. The bullets are cast of one-to-twenty-part alloy but can be made harder if necessary. We haven't found that necessary. When using the Thompson gascheck bullet with maximum loads, we have eliminated all leading problems with heavy loads in the .357 and the .44 Special.

Other bullets available from Mandel Custom Loads are a select line in .25 and .32 caliber. Bullet molds for the gascheck .357 and .44 handgun bullets are available from Ray C. Thompson, Box 216, Grand Marais, Minnesota. We have found the Thompson gascheck hollow point 431215 extremely accurate in the .44 Special with 20 to 22 grains of No. 2400. Such loads naturally should be used only in good modern .44 Special revolvers.

THE ARMS CHEST

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

1. Rate: 25 cents per word including name and address—minimum charge $3.00. Advertisements *must be accompanied by remittance*, addressed to "The Arms Chest," American Rifleman, made payable to "National Rifle Association"—1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington 6, D. C. *insertion will not be made until payment is received.*

2. Closing Date: All advertisements must be received with advance payment by not later than the 1st of the month preceding date of issue. (Example: Oct. 1st for the Nov. issue. Ads received after Oct. 1st and not later than Nov. 1st will be inserted in the Dec. issue.)

3. All Ads Subject to These Conditions: We reserve the right to edit all copy to conform with our standards and to reject or discontinue any advertisement which we consider undesirable.

4. Transactions Based on Good Faith: Deliberate misrepresentation, or violation of the codes of good sportsmanship and good business ethics, will constitute grounds for refusal of advertising, and may result in disbarment from N.R.A. membership.

5. Blind Ads Not Acceptable: Blind ads, with box numbers *only*, will not be accepted. Give your COMPLETE name and address, to insure prompt and certain delivery of all mail or telegraph replies.

NOTE: Postal authorities no longer are required to provide directory service for even first-class mail which does not carry a *complete* local address!

6. How to Count Numerals, Etc.: Groups of figures are counted as one word (example: .30-30, 250-3000, $150.00, $1.50). Abbreviations consisting of initials or single characters are counted as one word (example: W. H. Smith (W. H. counts as one word); H. B., meaning heavy barrel, etc.; W. H. and H. B. are one word) Hyphenated words are counted as two words (example: 20-gauge, pearl-handled, no-slip).

7. No Responsibility for Illegible Copy: The publishers are not responsible for errors in printing advertisements, due to illegible copy; type or print clearly all ads.

8. All Articles to Be Properly Described: To avoid misunderstandings the condition of every advertised article should be described in accordance with the following definitions, NEW—not previously sold at retail, in same condition as current factory production; NEW—DISCONTINUED—same as NEW, but discontinued model. The following definitions will apply to all SECOND-HAND articles: PERFECT—in new condition, in every respect; EXCELLENT—new condition, used but little, no noticeable marring of wood or metal, bluing perfect (except at muzzle or sharp edges); VERY GOOD—in perfect working condition, no appreciable wear on working surfaces, no corrosion or pitting, only minor surface dents or scratches; GOOD—in safe working condition, minor wear on working surfaces, no broken parts, no corrosion or pitting that will interfere with proper functioning; FAIR—in safe working condition but well worn, perhaps requiring replacement of minor parts or adjustments which should be indicated in advertisement, no rust but may have corrosion pits which do not render article unsafe or inoperable; POOR—badly worn, perhaps requiring major adjustments or repairs to place in operating condition.

9. WARNING TO PURCHASERS: The publishers *will accept no responsibility* for *any* unsatisfactory transaction involving articles which have not been described in accordance with the foregoing NRA standards. Purchasers or traders should therefore insist that sellers give clear descriptions of all articles, in accordance with these standards—*before* any transactions are consummated. Purchasers should also request shipment by express C.O.D., *with examination privileges;* the purchaser may (and should) then examine the shipment in his local express office—if unsatisfactory the article will then be returned by the express company to the shipper, at the latter's expense.

10(a). The National Firearms Act forbids the sale of the following: (*a.*) Full automatic machine guns. (*b.*) Rifles and shotguns with barrels less than 18 inches in length or 16 inches in the case of a weapon of .22 or smaller caliber. (*c.*) Handguns such as the Mauser or Luger automatic pistols, when such weapons are equipped with detachable butt stocks, except that all of the above may be sold by a Federal licensed dealer who has paid the special tax required by Section 3260, Internal Revenue Code. NOTE:—"Barrel length", as it applies to the above, is determined by the insertion of a cleaning rod from the muzzle until it comes to rest against the face of the closed breech.

(b). In addition, the NRA has adopted a policy of not accepting advertisements covering small pocket handguns, or any handguns having barrel lengths of 2 inches or less, which have no practical value as target, police or military weapons.

11. Fair Trade Laws: Advertising will not be accepted for articles to be sold in violation of Fair Trade laws, after the manufacturer has advised the NRA that such violation exists.

FOR SALE

L. C. SMITH, SPECIALTY GRADE, DOUBLE barrel Trap Gun, 32 inch full choke barrels, engraved action, straight trap stock, no safety, high solid rib with ivory bead sights, excellent condition, value $300.00, a real buy $150.00. New 1950 Catalog of Firearms, Gov't. Surplus & Sporting Goods. Send coin 25¢. Public Sport Shops, 11 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.

.22 REMINGTON VARMINT RIFLE, M722 Remington, perfect, with K-6 and Redfield Jr. mount. Forearm and pistol grip of stock sanded to fit my hand. An excellent rifle for $126.50. George S. White, Box 3093, Randolph Field, Texas.

GENUINE BUCKSKIN GLOVES. SEND money order for $2.50. We pay postage. State size. Whitewater Glove Co., Whitewater, Wisconsin.

GOOD KRAG SPORTER, PACIFIC SIGHTS $50.00. Hi-Standard HDM 6", perfect $40.00. Smith Ideal 12 F&M, SST Ejectors, Pad, Excellent $150.00. .45-70 Springfield, excellent $25.00. R. G. Loos, Grafton, North Dakota.

500 ANTIQUE ARMS OF ALL TYPES. Please advise your wants. Wm. M. Locke, 3607 Ault Park Rd., Cincinnati 8, Ohio.

9.3x72 DOUBLE RIFLE. HAMMERLESS. Circassian. Excellent $185.00. 9.5x57 Mannlicher Schoenauer, 4X scope, excellent $185.00. List, stamp. Hensoldt 6x42 $49.00. 7x50 $75.00. Cases, excellent. S. Gerhardt, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

ITHACA, 20 GA. DOUBLE NO 4 GRADE, 28" Krupp fluid steel barrels, Mod. & imp. cylinder, weight 6¼ lbs., pad, ivory sights, auto. ejector, 2¾" chamber, excellent $225.00. H. M. Williams, Punxsutawney, Pa.

REVOLVERS, .38 SPECIAL SMITH & WESSON, Victory Model, 4" barrels, good condition, $32.50. New 1950 catalog of Firearms, Gov't. Surplus & Sporting Goods. Send coin 25¢. Public Sport Shops, 11 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.

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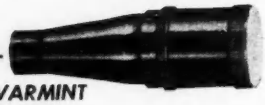

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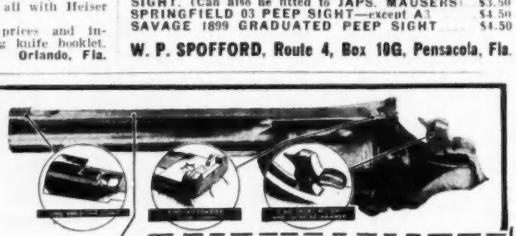

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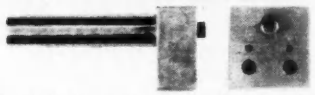

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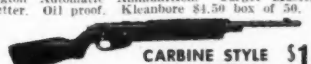

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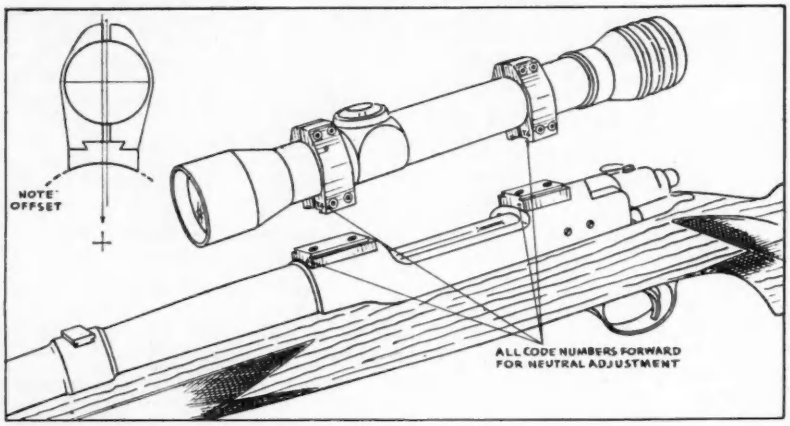

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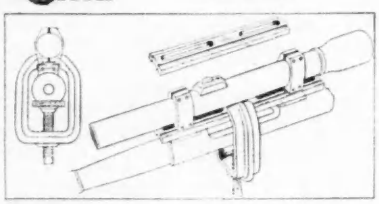

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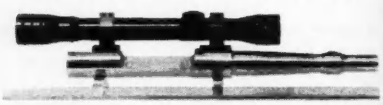

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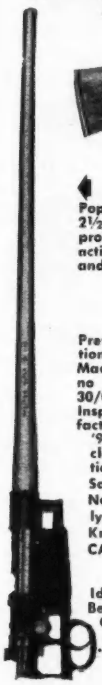

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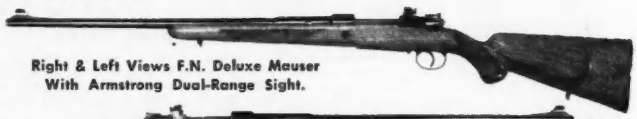

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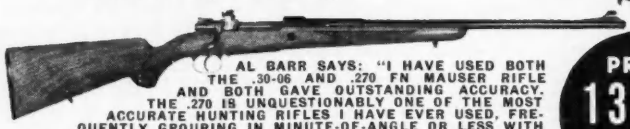

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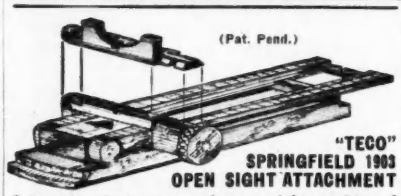

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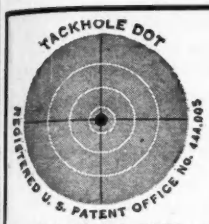

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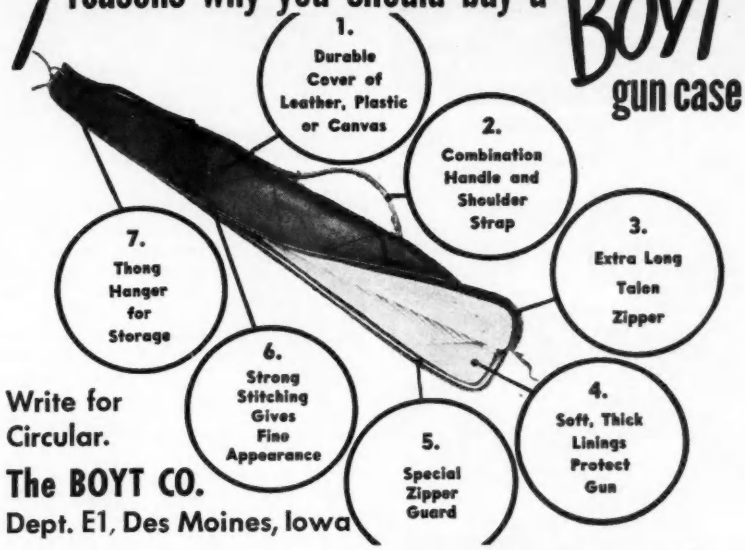
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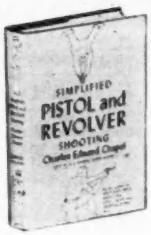

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CHILLED. Sizes 1 to 12, $1.60 per 5-lb bag. $7.35 per 25-lb bag. DROP SHOT in sizes 4 to 9 only, $1.55 per 5-lb bag. $7.10 per 25-lb bag. FOB here. We will not ship shot COD. On small shipments by parcel post add one pound for packing and include sufficient funds to cover postage and insurance.

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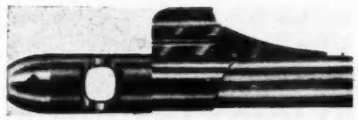

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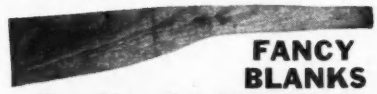

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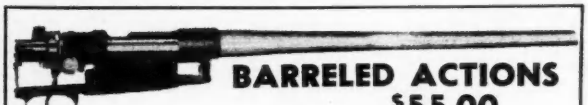

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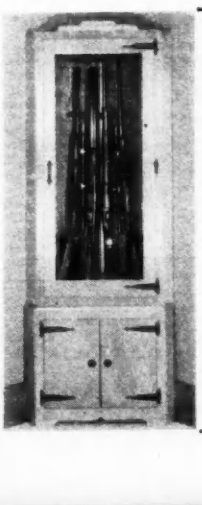

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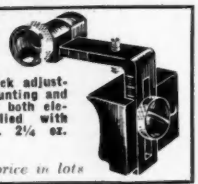

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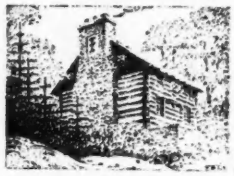

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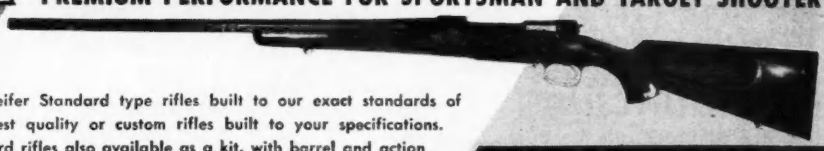

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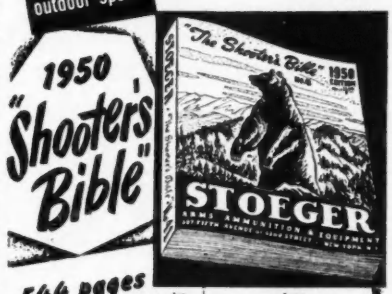

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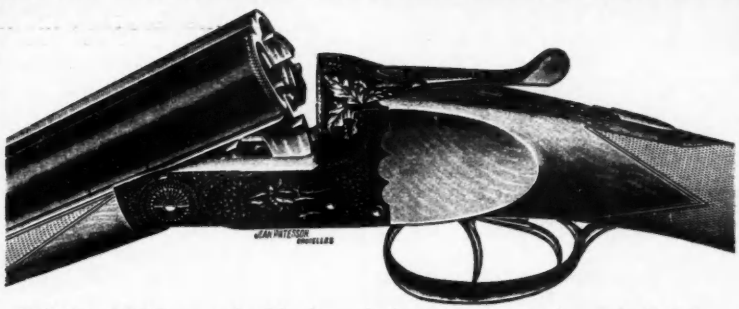

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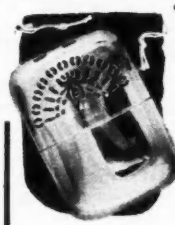

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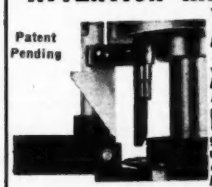

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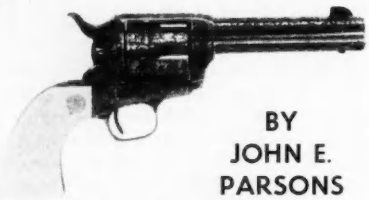

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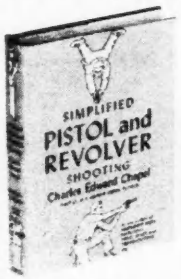

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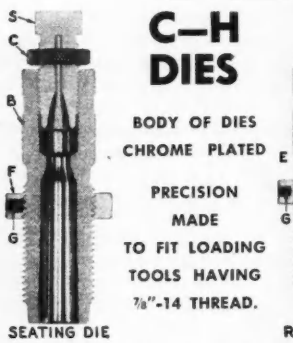

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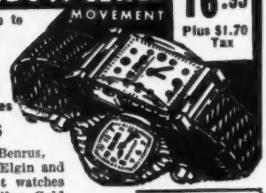

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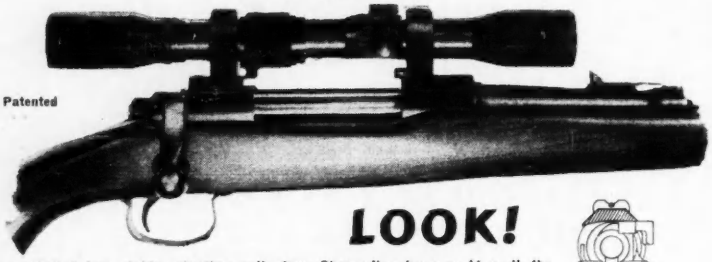

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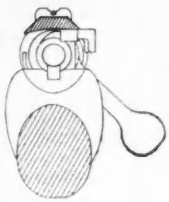

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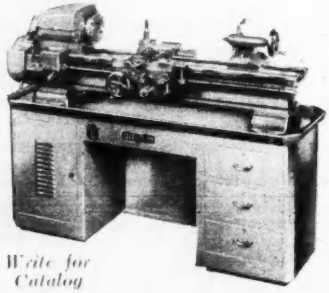

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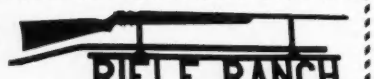

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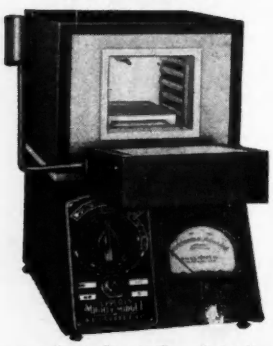

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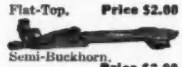

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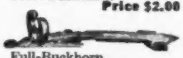

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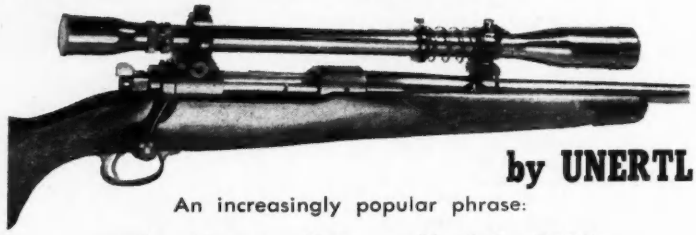

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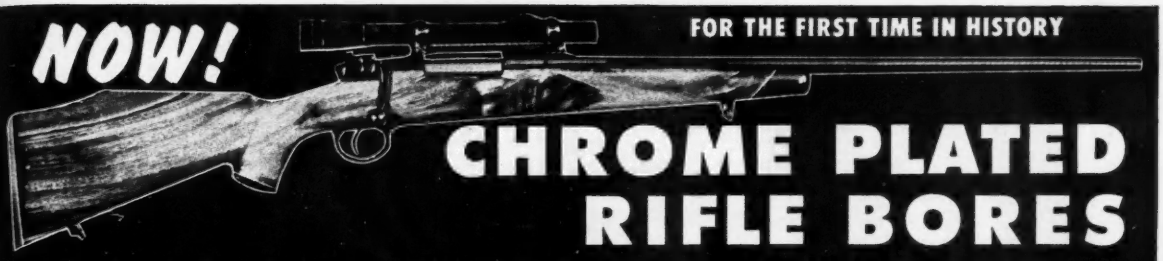

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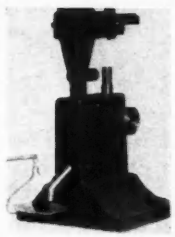

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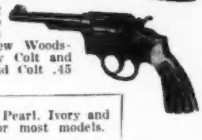

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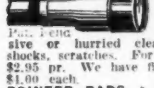

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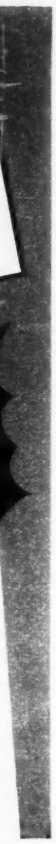

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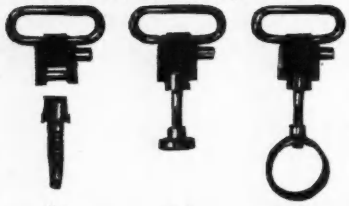

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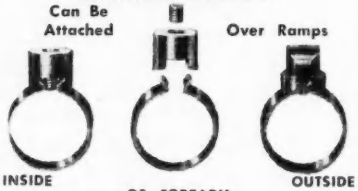

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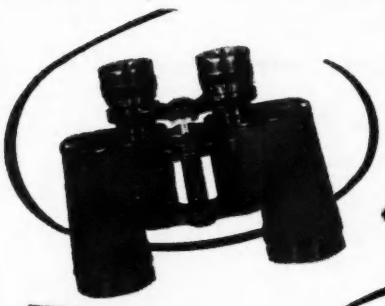

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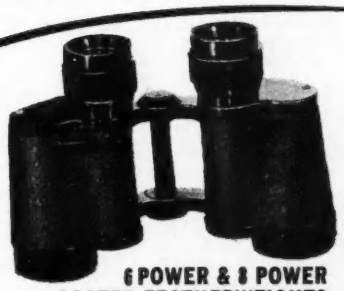

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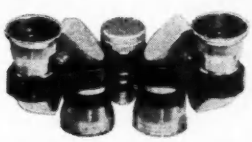

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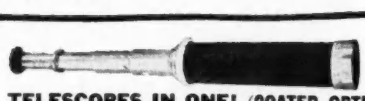

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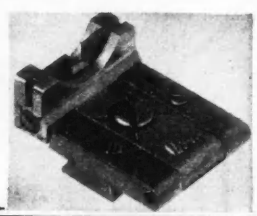

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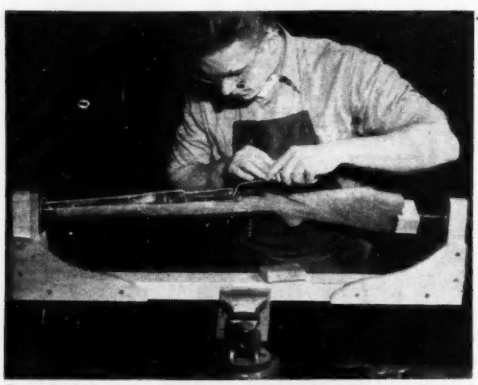

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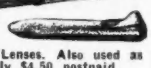

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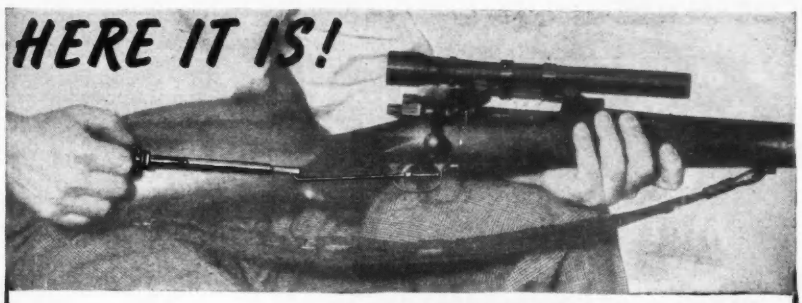

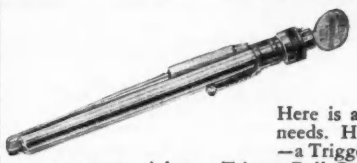

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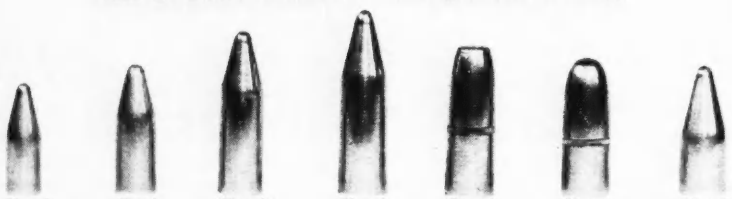

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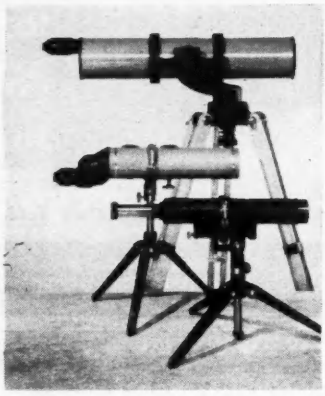

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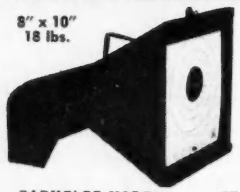

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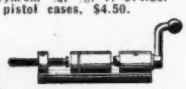

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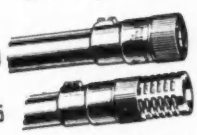

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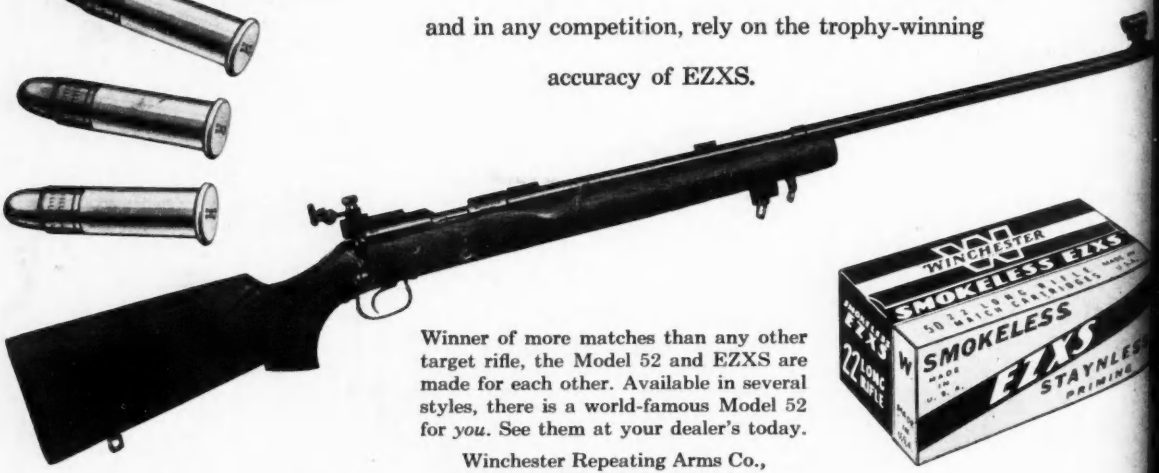

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